

Merry Christmas and a blessed 2022 to you and your families!

On Christmas, we will hear these words proclaimed:

*“In those days a decree went out from Caesar*

*Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled”*

(Luke 2:1). With that verse begins one of the most beautiful stories of all time, the story of the birth of

Jesus, a story that remains ever fresh, never growing

old. It is the story of God’s greatest act of freedom. He

chose to be born into the world to reveal His depth of

love for us and to bring salvation into the world. God

bathes us with His light that overcomes any and all

darkness. In our daily lives, we experience both lights

and shadows. Christmas is a time when we look

forward to the day when His promise will be fulfilled. It will be the time when shattered dreams and unfulfilled expectations will be erased; when peace, joy, oneness and love will replace war, hatred, racism and despair. Christmas is about what needs to be done to birth Christ again.

We reach out to others in imitation of Jesus. Our Savior gave Himself to us and He asks that we give ourselves to Him by sharing who we are with others. It continues to be encouraging to witness the consistent generosity of our parishioners. Thank you for your generosity which is expressed in and through both our regular and extraordinary outreach collections throughout any given year. There was a range of gift drives, food drives, and so many other initiatives. This is a small measure of the work we do.

Thank you for keeping your parish and its needs in your weekly and monthly planning. Thank you for sharing your gifts of time, talent and treasure so generously.

Active participation in the Catholic Community of St. Paul the Apostle is the way to involve yourselves in liturgy, learning and living the Christian-Catholic Faith. This Christmas and throughout 2022, let us invest ourselves in the pathway our Savior took. He went about doing good on earth because He was in deep union with God the Father. We want to know Christ better; live as He calls us to live and make Him better known.

On behalf of the members of the parish pastoral staff as well as the parish leadership, I wish you the peace of Christ and the serenity that comes from faith in the One who was born of Mary.

Once again Merry Christmas – *Wesołych Świąt Bożego Narodzenia* – *Maligayang Pasko* – *Feliz Navidad* and a blessed 2022 to you and your families! Fr. Chris D. Ciastoń

