

## *FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK*

“Today is born for us a Savior, Christ the Lord!” On the First Sunday of Advent we began a new liturgical year...the year of Grace 2021. For many, the year of Grace 2020 seemed anything but a time of grace. However, in the midst of personal tragedy, pandemic, social unrest, and political rancor, for those who have kept their eyes on the Lord it has been a year of purification and spiritual growth.

At Christmas we proclaim the birth of the Savior of the world! We sing with the Angels, Glory to God in the Highest! We are consoled because we know without a doubt that we are loved beyond our own comprehension, that the outstretched hands of the Child Jesus are for each and every one of us individually by name! Many in our world fail to see or even know of the total and perfect love that the Father has for us. It is incumbent upon those of us who know and see this in the manger to show, by our own love, God's care for everyone. In this time of social distancing, regulation of activity, and isolation, more than ever we must pray unceasingly and find creative ways to reach out to others. In the midst of our own pain and the pain of others this time can be truly salvific. Uniting ourselves with the poverty of the Holy Family we find the greatest of treasures...the Word made Flesh!

In the presence of the Child in the manger we are consoled, comforted, relieved, strengthened, and secure in the promise of Love for all eternity. We are filled with hope, even in the midst of tragedy and chaos. The Savior is born for US!

On Christmas Day the church will be open (with the lights on) all day! If you are able try to take a few moments to visit the Lord...look intently at the Infant in the crib and give Him your heart and love! Speak to Him and allow Him to take possession of your life. Rest with Him in confidence and hope. The Lord became one of us and will not leave us orphans.

God Bless you all!

Fr. Shawn