



THE DIOCESE OF CHICAGO AND MIDDLE AMERICA

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Dear parishioners and supplicants, we sincerely greet you on the great and joyous holiday of the **Nativity of Christ** and the **New Year**

CHRIST IS BORN – GLORIFY HIM!

The Son of God comes down from the heavens to the sinful earth for the sake of our salvation. Through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, He is born of a pure and humble handmaiden, the Virgin Mary. The mystery of God's providence, preached by the prophets takes place.

The Angel of the Lord appeared before shepherds, tending their sheep, and the glory of the Lord shown on them, and they were afraid. But the angel assured them "Fear not, I bring you joy, which will be for all people, for unto us this day is born in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord".

Spiritual joy, the joy of salvation, is inherent in the Birth of Christ. We rejoice in God's mercy and with joyful feeling glorify our Savior and with the angels cry out: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill among men".

CHRIST IS FROM THE HEAVENS – GO TO MEET HIM!

The Lord marked His descent with a bright star. "Those who worshipped the stars" understood what this sign meant and hastened to meet the King and God. Their journey from Persia was difficult. What led them was not a star but an angel of the Lord in the form of a star who brought them to the God-Child. Venerating Him, they brought Him their gifts: gold, as for the King, frankincense, as unto God, and myrrh, as unto one who tastes death.

Let us hasten to greet the God-Child. The place of our greeting is the Church. In her liturgical services, the Holy Church directs our gaze unto this event and its meaning for our salvation and makes us participants in this celebration. Let us give thanks unto the Lord for His mercy and bring Him gifts from our joyous heart: faith, hope, and love.

CHRIST IS ON EARTH – BE YE LIFTED UP!

Through His grace, the Lord is always with us, especially in these days which we celebrate His glorious coming in the form of a Child.

Let us lift up our minds and hearts on these festal days, in order to partake of the heavenly glory of Christ, to feel God's mercy to us and that our faith be set aflame with the love of Christ to be for us a hopeful guide to salvation amidst the gloom of modern life.

May the grace of this great feast be with you all and keep you from every adversity, granting unto you health, well-being and Godspeed through the coming year of the Lord.

Your grateful supplicants: Archbishop Alypy, Bishop Peter,
the clergy, church warden, parish council and sisterhood