

## 2025 Christmas Message

Dear Parish Family,

As we come to the close of this year and enter the beautiful, gracious season of Christmas, I want to take a moment to thank God for each of you. It has been a year of blessings and challenges, of joys and crosses shared as a parish family. I want to thank you for your faith, prayers, and the many quiet acts of love that have strengthened our parish community. Through it all, Christ has been with us—guiding, maintaining, and quietly working in ways we may not always see, but can trust. God has remained faithful.

Christmas reminds us that God chose to come close to us—not in power and splendor, but in the simplicity and vulnerability of a child. In Jesus, God steps into our real lives: into our families, our worries, our work, our illnesses, our hopes, and our disappointments. Whatever you are carrying at the end of this year—gratitude, grief, fatigue, anxiety, or joy—know that the Christ Child receives it all with tenderness and love. Remember, He is Emmanuel —God with us.

I am deeply grateful for the many ways you have witnessed to Christ's presence this year: in your faithful participation at Mass, your service in ministries, especially those who step up to assist in the most challenging moments, your quiet acts of charity, your generosity to those in need, and your support of one another in times of sorrow and celebration. You are a living sign that Christ is still at work in our world.

As we celebrate His Nativity, let us ask for the grace to recognize Jesus:

\*in the Eucharist, where He feeds and strengthens us

\*in His Word, which lights the path

\*in one another, especially in the poor, the lonely, the sick, and those who feel far from God.

May His peace renew your heart, bring healing where you are weary, and fill your home with hope.

As we look towards the New Year, may the Lord renew in us a deeper trust in His providence. Let us entrust our parish, our families, and our own hearts to the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. May this coming year be one of spiritual growth, reconciliation, healing, and renewed hope for us all.

Please know that I carry you and your loved ones in my daily prayers and that I specially remember you at the altar during this season of Christmas and beyond, especially those who are grieving, those who are sick, those who feel alone, those carrying heavy burdens, and anyone facing uncertainty as the new year approaches. Let us walk forward together with gratitude for what God has done and trust in what He will do.

May the Lord bless you and keep you.

I wish you and your families a blessed and holy Christmas and a New Year filled with the peace of Christ.

Yours through Christ,



Revd Fr. Nicodemus Shaghel, VC  
Pastor