



“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, and the promise of salvation is fulfilled among us. For it is written: “For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests, and he is named Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:5)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In the stillness of this holy season, the Church once again invites us to kneel in spirit before the mystery of the Incarnation, the eternal Word who becomes flesh and dwells among us.

Christmas is not merely the remembrance of a past event, but the living proclamation that God has entered our human story and remains with His people in every age.

The Child born in Bethlehem reveals the heart of God: a love that does not dominate but serves, that does not remain distant but draws near. In the poverty of the manger, we behold the humility of God Himself. The Lord of heaven and earth chooses dependence, fragility, vulnerability, and silence so that no human condition would ever be untouched by His mercy.

The angels, messengers of divine holiness, announce this mystery with awe and tenderness: “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” (Luke 2:10)

Their song reminds us that salvation begins with God’s initiative. Before we seek Him, He seeks us. The purity of the angels reflects the reverence with which we, too, are called to approach the mystery of Christmas not with distraction or haste, but with wonder, prayer, and adoration.

The shepherds, keeping watch through the night, embody the poor and the humble of heart. They are the first to receive the good news and the first to respond in faith “So they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger.” (Luke 2:16)

Their journey teaches us that faith is born in listening and matures in action. They do not analyze or delay; they trust the Word spoken to them and allow it to lead them to an encounter with Christ. Having seen the Savior, they return glorifying and praising God, transformed by what they have witnessed.

From distant lands, guided by a star, the Magi set out on a long and uncertain journey. They represent the searching heart of humanity, restless until it finds the truth. Their perseverance leads them beyond human power and worldly wisdom, to kneel before a Child. Scripture tells us: “They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures.” (Matthew 2:11)

Their gifts are symbols of their surrender: gold for the King, frankincense for the divine presence, and myrrh for the sacrifice that love will one day demand. In the Magi, we see that authentic faith is a journey one that requires patience, courage, and the humility to be changed by the encounter with Christ.

Christmas is a renewed call to live what we celebrate. The Incarnation challenges us to recognize Christ not only in the manger, but in the Eucharist, in the poor, in the sick, and in one another. It invites us to a devotion rooted in prayer, strengthened by the sacraments, and sustained by perseverance amid the trials of daily life.

In a world often marked by uncertainty and division, the newborn Christ offers us peace not as the world gives, but as a gift born of reconciliation with God. May this season deepen our faith, renew our hope, and enlarge our charity, so that our parish may continue to be a living sign of Christ's presence in our community.

Let us entrust ourselves to Mary, who received the Word with perfect faith, and to Saint Joseph, who guarded the mystery with quiet obedience. May they teach us to welcome Christ with open hearts and to carry Him faithfully into the world.

May the blessing of the Incarnate Word fill your homes with peace, your hearts with joy, and our Santa Cruz Parish with enduring faith this Christmas and always.

May the joy of the angels, the faith of the shepherds, and the perseverance of the Wise Men fill your hearts as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. May the newborn Christ bless you and your family with peace, hope, and abiding love today and always.

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