

Christmas 2025

The Right Reverend William Bower, SSC

Beloved,

As Christmas approaches, everyone experiences it differently: children feel excitement and curiosity, adults are busy with preparations, and seniors often reflect with nostalgia and sadness for those who are no longer present.

People around the world experience Christmas differently. Some view it with disdain, others as a time merely for celebration, but Christians should use it to reflect on our faith and its significance.

It is no surprise that Christmas, Easter, Ascension, and Pentecost are our most important celebrations of our Christian faith. In the Nativity of our Lord, we have the first dogma of our faith – “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14). God Himself in the person of the Son, comes to us in the simplest and most vulnerable form, an infant, and in the lowest possible estate, born in a manger. In a word, incarnation.

But not just any manger, but one in Bethlehem, (beit lehem), which translates as “house of bread.” And with not just any name but the name of Jesus which translates as “God saves.” Jesus will not only come to us in the humblest fashion in order to save us, but He gives us Himself in the bread, the manna, of Holy Communion. The same Jesus who laid His head in the straw at birth, now gives Himself for heavenly food until He comes again.

The point of the incarnation was not to provide us with a novel philosophy, a new religion, or even a festive winter holiday. It was God coming unto us in order to give unto us what the world cannot give – salvation. But more than simply saving us from hellfire, He brings us life and that more abundantly. By recognizing Christ and following His will daily, we are renewed and find peace. In each action that we do the will of God; the Word is made flesh within the tabernacle of our hearts.

Peace. Certainly, our world needs it now more than ever. Certainly, our nation, community, and even our families need it now more than ever. This Christmas, rediscover the truth of the incarnation, that God really took on our humanity so that we might be forgiven and have that peace which passeth all understanding. The source of all love came to us so that we might learn how to love.

I pray that this Christmas you will show God’s love to all – especially when you are feeling weary in well doing. Give this gift of love to others freely and enter into the joy of our Savior’s birth.

Have a blessed Christ-Mass! And a joyful 12 days of Christmastide!

Bishop Bower