

## Homily Summary – Christmas (Year C)

### **Main Theme: God's Love Made Visible in Jesus' Birth**

Merry Christmas! We celebrate the greatest gift of all—Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Christmas invites us to reflect on the depth of God's love, a love so profound that He became one of us in the infant Jesus.

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### **Main Points**

#### **1. A Gift Beyond Words**

- The infinite God became the infant God, humbling Himself out of love for us. This wonder should inspire awe, reminding us of the immense love and majesty of God.
- Just as God worked through humble Bethlehem, He works in the simplicity of our lives.

#### **2. The Relationship at the Heart of Christmas**

- Christmas is about a personal relationship with God. While gifts, gatherings, and meals are wonderful, they are signs pointing to God's love for us.
- Jesus came for you. His birth is an invitation to deeper connection with Him.

#### **3. The Simplicity of Christmas**

- Even if this year's Christmas feels simple, remember the first Christmas was simple too. In simplicity, there is space for profound encounters with God.
- Take time, even just five minutes, to speak with God from your heart.

#### **4. Loss and Hope**

- For those experiencing loss, grief, or family struggles, know that Jesus desires to console and strengthen you. His love offers peace, even in pain.

#### **5. The Liturgical Season and Resolutions**

- Christmas begins today and continues through the season of Christmastide.
- Consider making a Christmas or New Year's resolution—whether it's daily prayer, reading Scripture, or attending Mass weekly.

#### **6. Signs of God's Love**

- Blessed St. Benedict Medals and books given at Mass are reminders of God's love. Use these gifts to deepen your faith and hear God's voice more clearly.
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### **Reflection Questions**

- How can you make time for Jesus amidst the busyness of Christmas?
- What Christmas or New Year's resolution will you make to grow closer to God?

### **Father's Poem**

All was calm, all was bright, on that sacred, holy night. Hark the Herald, angels sing, and to Him, our own hearts we bring. As we lay them at his feet, Our eyes catch His, Christ's gaze we meet.

He looks in love, and smiles at you. He says, "Oh yes, my child, it's true.

I love you, and I want you here. So now have peace, more calm, less fear.

Please stay close and know my love. I always watch from up above.

Through all your ups and all your downs, it is easy for me to be found.

I love you, so do stay with me. Not just at the Christmas tree.

At the crib, and at your home. At your work, your school, your phone.

I will never walk away, I will never leave you alone." So we each tell Jesus too, I want to be close to you.

Come closer in and warm my heart. I will make a brand new start.

I will welcome you within, though there was no room in the inn.

I receive your love today, and choose O King to pray each day.

I will choose to trust in you, you were born for me, it's true."

## **Reasons to come to Mass each weekend**

**Hebrews 10:24-25** - "And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

**Exodus 20:8** - "Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy."

**Luke 22:19** - "Then he took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'"

**Acts 2:42** - "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers."

**John 6:53-54** - "So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.'"

**Psalms 122:1** - "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord!'"

**Matthew 18:20** - "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

**Colossians 3:16** - "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God."

## **Additional resources to learn more about God and the Catholic faith**

- Check out the resource list available on [www.frmerkley.com](http://www.frmerkley.com)
- Catholic Answers: <https://www.catholic.com/>
- Word on Fire: <https://www.wordonfire.org/>
- Formed: <https://formed.org/>
- The Coming Home Network: <https://chnetwork.org/>
- Catholic Exchange: <https://catholicexchange.com/>
- Dynamic Catholic: <https://dynamiccatholic.com/>
- The Augustine Institute: <https://augustineinstitute.org/>
- Ascension Press: <https://ascensionpress.com/>
- EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com/>
- The Catholic Company: <https://www.catholiccompany.com/>
- Busted Halo: <https://bustedhalo.com/>
- CatholicCulture.org: <https://www.catholicculture.org/>
- The Thomistic Institute: <https://thomisticinstitute.org/>
- Ignatius Press: <https://www.ignatius.com/>
- Catholic Education Resource Center (CERC): <https://www.catholiceducation.org/>