

Christmas 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

**Praised be God who so loved the world that He gave us his only Son.**

It has been a most unusual and difficult year. We have lost loved ones and friends to the wretched virus. Many are suffering great financial hardship. Our way of life has been greatly altered by all the social distancing and isolation. Worst of all, the public and communal worship of God has all but vanished from our society. Adding to the suffering caused by the corona virus pandemic, political contentiousness and divisions have afflicted us. But despite all this, we Christians have a message of Good News for the world. *Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready,* Rev. 19:7.

The Word of God, through whom all things were made, was made flesh, so that as a perfect man he could save all humanity and sum up all things in himself. The Lord is the goal of human history, the focal point of the desires of history and civilization, the center of humankind, the joy of all hearts, and the fulfillment of all aspirations. Animated and drawn together in His Spirit we press onwards in faith towards the consummation of history which fully corresponds to his plan of love. "Behold, I am coming soon," Rev. 22:12. Jesus, the Bridegroom, is about to appear to the world in the flesh, as a babe in the manger in Bethlehem. St. Bernard says, "It was as if God the Father sent upon the earth a pursue of mercy. It was only a small purse, but it was very full."

Surely God could have redeemed humankind without sending His Son to be born in such lowliness and poverty. This act of God was meant to involve us in a debt only great love can repay. For, "love is repaid by love alone." Let us give God our hearts and be profoundly grateful for the great thing He has done in sending us His Son; the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Jesus says to us, "I am yours and for you, and delighted to be what I am, so as to be yours and give myself to you." Let us rejoice in the Lord. Our joy is the best gift we can give to our neighbors and our society in these troubled and difficult times when so many are feeling discouraged and even depressed. We are leaven, we are light, we are salt.

We thank all of you for your loving support of Santa Cruz Parish, especially during this pandemic. Let us give our hearts to the Divine Infant Jesus. *We know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose.*

May our parish be united in love as we journey together in faith.

The Carmelite Friars of Santa Cruz Catholic Church

*Fr. Stephen, Fr. David and Fr. Jose Luis*

Due to the pandemic we are not able to give you Mass times for Christmas. Please check our website or call the office.

