

**CHRISTMAS DAY 2020/FACEBOOK MASS
SERMON – SAINT JOSEPH PARISH
FATHER CRAIG LOONEY
TITUS 2.11-15 ST. LUKE 2.1-14**

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Our eyes are drawn to the beautiful Crèche next to the Altar. The Blessed Mother is here; her faithful husband and our patron Saint Joseph, quietly stands behind her. The newborn Jesus is in his crib, washed and rubbed with oil and salt, wrapped in clean strips of cloth to keep him warm and safe. And we are here with him.

This is the moment in the history of mankind God chose to reveal himself to us through his Son, Jesus, a real human being. We have now witnessed the prophesies from Isaiah and Malachi we heard during the Advent Season about the birth of our King and Savior come true. We have responded to John the Baptist's message to get ready and make a straight road ready for the Lord's arrival.

The Christmas Story is like no other story. It is the story of the *Incarnation*...God learned to walk among us...so one day we might walk with him in heaven. And history has been changed forever. Jesus is our *Emmanuel*...*God with us*. He is the Light of Saint John's Gospel...who leads the world out of darkness and death into light and life...and the darkness can never overcome him!

We commenced today's Liturgy with the Blessing of the Crèche and then sang the quintessential Christmas Hymn "O come all ye faithful." We proclaimed Jesus to King of Angels...God of God...Light of Light...and Christ the Lord.

But Jesus didn't arrive on a chariot of fire...God made his presence known to us as a fragile flame...a baby. Neither was he welcomed into a royal palace with soft sheets and blankets covering his bed and servants to watch over him. His bed was a hay trough and his companions were barn animals. Our God and King came to serve...not to be served.

What we have been given today is the greatest Christmas present we have ever received...God's gift of himself through his Son, Jesus. The Christmas story needs to be told over and over again. This is especially true in these troubling times when everyone needs to hear about God's love and the peace and hope only Jesus can bring.

All throughout the Advent Season we have been preparing for this moment. And so we find ourselves looking upon the fragile flame of a baby boy; joining with the Angels and Archangels and shouting...*Glory to God in the Highest Heaven, and peace on Earth to those with whom he is pleased!*

Let's ask ourselves what we can bring to the Crèche...what can we give Jesus? How will what we bring change what others see in us? Nineteenth Century poet, Christina Rossetti, author of "In the bleak midwinter" said it very well...we give him the only thing we can...we give him our heart.

Jesus our God and King and Savior is here...O come, let us adore him!

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