

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

One Flock, one Family, Living and Sharing the Love of Christ

Christmas Message 2020

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

I greet you with the Words of Scripture in John 1:5, saying, *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it."* Once again, we are about to celebrate Christmas, we greet each other with the words "Merry Christmas." Yet we also know that life is not always merry for all of us, especially during this pandemic when churches have been shut down and schools have been closed. Many people have lost their jobs, others have lost their loved ones, others are sick. Truly, this Covid - 19 has messed up our lives in many ways.

Amid such suffering and gloom, Christmas truly becomes the message of hope for each of us. When our hopes are crushed, our dreams collapse, the Immanuel-God is with us-is designed to relieve us and bring us hope. The pandemic makes us distant from each other, but God does not keep distant from us. He came to us because he wanted to join us on the road, to listen to our story, and to help us realize that we are not walking in circles but moving toward the house of peace and joy. This is the great mystery of Christmas that continues to give us comfort and consolation amidst the challenges of COVID-19, through the birth of Jesus. The God of love gave us life in sending his only Son to be with us at all times and in all places, so that we never have to feel lost in our struggles, pains and sickness, but always can trust as he walks with us.

Why do bad things happen to good people? Why suffering? Why the pandemic? We don't know. But what we do know is that God chooses to suffer with us. During this pandemic let us not allow the virus to affect our hearts because we have a God who is with us, capable of killing all the virus in the world. He is the "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Is 9: 9). He comes to us every moment to dispel the darkness of this world. Let us entrust the entirety of humanity into the hands of the Lord despite the uncertainties of life, so that all may find peace, joy and hope amidst COVID-19 to celebrate a meaningful Christmas, 2020.

Christmas is an opportunity for me to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your generosity and support for our parish in this difficult year. In particular, I thank those who serve in the various ministries and organizations. To these volunteers who are the heartbeat of the parish, I am truly indebted.

On behalf of Deacon Gustavo, and the parish staff, I wish each of you a grace-filled, joyous Christmas and a New Year full of good health and blessings. Please be assured of my prayers for your intentions and a remembrance at Holy Mass. May the peace, joy, and love of the Holy Family be present in your lives each day of the New Year.

Advent and Christmas Schedule 2020

All the Masses are livestreamed on the Church **You Tube**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwIVlw9r7YdvnWK0VwNUm9A>

Mass

Monday – Friday: **7:30am** - Livestream

Saturday: **8:00am**; **5:30pm Vigil** – Livestream

Sunday: **8:00am** - Livestream; **10:00am** (in the garden & Livestream); **12pm** (in the garden & Livestream);
3:00pm (Spanish) - Livestream

Communion

Drive through communion after each Mass in front of the church.

Adoration

Fridays: 8am – 9am; First Friday: 8am-6:45pm followed by the Sacred Heart Mass at 7pm

Confession

Tuesdays: 6pm-7pm (During Advent Only); Fridays: 8am-9am; Saturdays: 4:00pm – 5:00pm
or by appointment

December 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception- Holy Day of Obligation

Masses at **7:30 am & 7:00 pm—Livestream**

December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day- Mass at **7:00 pm - Livestream**

December 15-23: Nine Simbang Gabi Masses at **7:00 pm (Filipino Tradition)- Livestream**

Christmas Eve –Thursday – all Masses will be held in the garden if it is not raining.

4:00 p.m. Children Family Mass; **6:00 p.m.** English Mass; **12:00 a.m.** Midnight Mass

Christmas Day-Friday- all Masses will be held in the garden if it is not raining.

8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 12 noon & 3:00 p.m. (Spanish)

New Year Eve –Thursday

Vigil Mass: Mary, Mother of God, Mass @ **5:30 p.m. – Livestream**

New Year Day – Friday

Solemnity of Mother of God– Holy Day of Obligation

Masses: **8:00 a.m.- livestream**

& 10:00 a.m. (in the garden & livestream)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Fr. Thi Van Hoang