

A Letter to the Parish Family

Happy Thanksgiving Day

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Starting with Thanksgiving Day we are getting into perhaps the busiest time of the year. This period is marked by family reunions, generous giving and a lot of travels and fun. In the midst of all these hectic doings it is possible that we miss or forget the real reason for all that we do. So it is highly important that we take some time to think of “why do we do all these things?”

When we look into the origin or the history of all these celebrations we come to see that they all are (were) originally religious celebrations. Thanksgiving Day was (is) meant to offer THANKS to God for His care and providence. We all very well know that Christmas is the memorial of the Incarnation of the Word of God. New Year’s is a time to assess the passing year and to Thank God for all the blessings we have received in the passing year. Also, we consider it as an occasion to make resolutions to start a bright and better year by not repeating the mistakes of the past. Naturally it is also a time to thank God for the blessings of life, health, time and all the other achievements we can think of.

When we look at the ways our society celebrate all these important memorials what we come to see is that these events have almost lost their original and religious sense and meaning. They have turned out to be mere secular celebrations where there is no place for God at all. It is just a big time for the business world. Many enjoy a good meal on Thanksgiving Day without even saying a grace before the meals. So many celebrate Christmas without Christ and Mass. They forget that Jesus is the real reason of the Season.

It is high time for us to regain the original meaning and sense of all these events and celebrations. We need to be thankful to God in all these. The best and most important way to do it is to celebrate all these memorials together with the greatest of all these memorials—Holy Eucharist. Jesus has asked all of us to celebrate the Holy Eucharist in His memory. Offering of the Holy Eucharist is the best way and form of offering thanks to God. A Christmas celebration without Christ is an absolute contradiction in terms. Let us welcome the New Year invoking the grace of God and keeping God in our daily lives.

This year all the three celebrations have a special significance. Last year due to the Covid19 pandemic we were unable to celebrate them as we used to do. So this is a very special moment to be thankful to God that we are here still today and have got the chance to celebrate them. Let us remember the millions of people who lost their lives due to the Covid virus. Also let us keep in our prayers those families that grieve over their lost beloved ones in this time of family reunions. Sometimes, though we might have been affected by this fatal virus we are fortunate to survive.

At this time I would like to request all of you to keep God in all these celebrations of this Holy Season. By chance, if you have not yet begun to attend Sunday Mass in church after the period of restrictions it is the best time to get back to the church. Please remember, dispensations for not attending Sunday Mass have been revoked. It is no longer enough to watch Mass online. Christmas and New Year church schedule will be announced soon. Date and time of Advent Penance Service also will be announced rather soon. So please find enough time for Mass and Confession in celebrating this Holy Season. Let us be thankful to God by offering Him sacrifices of thanksgiving and giving Him the due place in our daily lives.

God bless you

Rev. Joy J Adimakkeel