

December 24, 2020



Dear St. Ambrose Parishioners,

This Christmas is shaping up to be the kind of Christmas we have never had before! We are in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. Everyone is required to take extra precautions such as social and physical distancing, masking and frequent hand washing. There will be no office parties, no large social gatherings and even family gatherings are restricted. Starting

Boxing Day, December 26th, we begin a province wide shutdown and all churches will be closed for public Masses until it is over. What kind of a Christmas is this? What is there to celebrate?

Well, actually, as Christians we have a great deal to celebrate! Christmas is not so much about us and what we are doing, but rather, Christmas is about what God has done for us. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him may not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) God loved us so much that He sent His only Son into the world so that in and through and with Jesus, we can live a holy life here on earth, and one day live forever in Heaven. Holiness of life, here and now, and eternal life in Heaven later, this is a very big deal and worth celebrating! All of this is only possible because of the birth of Jesus which we celebrate on December 25th!

When air flight was in its infancy a family was outside in their backyard one summer enjoying a BBQ. Suddenly, a large passenger plane flew overhead. The mother pointed up and said to her children, "Look I think that is the plane your uncle Bob is on." All the kids began jumping up and down and waving at the plane. The youngest child asked her mother, "Mommy, how did uncle Bob climb up into the sky to get on the plane?" The mother smiled and said, "Honey, Uncle Bob did not have to climb up into the sky to get on the plane. That would be impossible. The plane lands on the ground and then everyone can get in."

In the same way it is impossible for you and I to climb up to heaven on our own ability. The Good News is we don't have to. Jesus came down so that together by living a life in union with Him He can bring us to heaven one day. This is worth celebrating!

During this Christmas Season let us take some time each day in quiet prayer and reflection to thank God for the gift of His Son. Let us also remember the most important gift we can give someone is the gift of our hearts and our love. Let us make sure we renew that gift to God this Christmas and each day of our lives.

May God bless you and your loved ones with joy, peace and love this Christmas and good health in 2021!

Fr. Gary Schlack, Pastor

P.S. I want to thank everyone who prayed for Fr. Andrew, Barb and myself during these past couple of weeks. We are all feeling much better and should be back to 100% in no time.