



Christmas 2020

Dear Families,

As the Advent season brings us to the celebration of Christmas and the birth of Christ, I invite you to consider the following verse, *When they saw the star, they were overjoyed...* Matthew 2:10.

Being a parent, and in my case also a grandparent, we are presented with a unique opportunity to witness the pure joy that is a child at Christmastime. For adults, the holiday season is often filled with lists, gift wrapping, and errands. This year has brought additional stress and new challenges to navigate amidst COVID-19 concerns and social distancing. It has become easy for us to forget the joy of the moment. Children can see the world as we cannot; with an innocence and excitement for these celebrations. During the beginning of December, I decorated my Christmas tree with my young grandchildren. The moment the lights were turned on, I was greeted with excited yells and laughter. I couldn't help but smile at their happiness, over something as simple as Christmas lights. This pure joy is the joy we should all feel during this time of year. Our children (and grandchildren) are the light in our lives, just as Jesus is a light for all people.

We often forget, amidst the shopping lists and errands that we are celebrating Jesus coming into the world. Jesus is the greatest gift God has provided for us. The light and hope that his birth brought to the world, as described in the verse from Matthew, is a sentiment we should bring into our lives always, but especially during the Christmas season. I encourage you, throughout the coming days and weeks, to take time in your busy day, to pause and reflect on the meaning of the season. Look to your children for the joy we all need and embrace the small moments that make this time of year so special.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas filled with peace, joy, and special family moments, and a happy, healthy New Year. We are looking forward to welcoming in the new year with you.

In Christ,

Thomas Chadzutko

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