

My dear friends in Jesus Christ,

*"I bring you tidings of great joy: Today in the City of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!"* (Luke 2:11)

Good news, indeed, for Christ is the only perfect Christmas gift! Our relatives and friends may have shopped for hours to obtain for us an ideal gift. We ourselves may have endured the rush and crush of Christmas shopping. For some, our fingers may be numb and our eyes tearing up from internet shopping. Our giving may even bring to others an immense amount of unselfish love. Yet we all know that even our best gifts are unable to make others completely happy. We shall never be perfectly pleased, even with the beautifully wrapped gifts under our own Christmas tree. For only Jesus Christ can completely satisfy us!

At Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph were without the comforts and conveniences of Nazareth; they did not have the warm, cheerful atmosphere of their home; they lacked even the bare essentials for decent living. "There was no room for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7). Yet they were happy. For in the stable of Bethlehem Mary gave birth to the giver of all happiness.

Then there were the Shepherds who first heard the "good news of great joy" (Luke 2:10): So they went with haste, and they found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger. And when they had seen, they understood what had been told them concerning this Child.

Good news of great joy continues to be ours even in a world that seems to bring news of heartache, hatred and violence all too often. We are reminded time and again that only Christ the Lord can completely satisfy us! That is why Christ did not abandon us but gave us his Church to console and comfort us. If there are parishioners who need our services such as those who are homebound, please do not hesitate to call the Parish Office and let us know.

May God bless you and all the members of your family this Christmas 2017 and throughout 2018!

In Christ Jesus Our Lord,

Reverend Monsignor Edward C. Puleo