



**Fr. Matt's Musings**  
**Merry Christmas!**

*What is done in love is done well.* (Vincent van Gogh)

A friend of mine sent this quote to me this week, and it seemed a fitting entrée into our Christmas weekend. Jesus' birth into our world as one of us was the ultimate statement of who God is on our behalf. It demonstrates to what lengths God will go to show the depth of divine love for us and the importance of love as the driving force of who we are called to be. One of the Christmas images is wood: the wood of the stable and the manger. It is an image of the humble beginnings of the Lord. Yet what is primary in the Christmas story is the presence of love, especially of Joseph and Mary's love for their newborn son. It is a call to simplicity for us this Christmas. In the midst of lights, presents, ornaments, carols and festive tables, Christmas is a call to remember that God is love, and we are called to that same love. We are called to accept ourselves as loved beyond our wildest imaginations and called to love beyond our own self-proclaimed limitations.

This Christmas, whether it is the wood of our Christmas tree or the wood of our Christmas fire, let us dedicate ourselves to love as our origin and our calling. We remember the vulnerability of Jesus as a baby and the trust placed in Mary and Joseph to raise Jesus in love. But let us also remember that this same baby Jesus will save us by a calling on another wood, the wood of the cross. That means our love will take us to places that will be painful, hard as wood, isolating, forsaking, but always with the knowledge that our Lord and Savior, whose birth we celebrate, has walked this road before us and loves us through each moment. What is done in love is done well. Merry Christmas!

Live Jesus!

*Fr. Matt*

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