



Fr. Matt's Musings Christmas 2017

Merry Christmas! This is my 56th Christmas. They have all been special, but they have changed over the years. Like many of you, there was something magical about the childhood Christmas celebrations. There have been memorable gifts, lights, colors, dinners, and times with family and friends. I have cherished watching the magic of Christmas repeat itself in the lives of my niece and nephews. More recently, I have experienced Christmas as the older generation in my family since this will be the fourth Christmas since my mom died and the sixteenth without my dad. Christmas is still joyful, wonderful and celebratory, but it is different.

Christmas is not a static celebration. Each year, we come to Christmas as a different person. What does not change is our need to celebrate this unique moment in time when God chose to do the unimaginable: to become one of us. Jesus is born as a vulnerable baby in the household of Joseph and Mary. What great trust God has in our ability to love and to accept! There was no room for them at the inn, but our hearts need to be very roomy to accept Christ and imitate his love. The shepherds were the first messengers. How open are we to hear messages from unexpected sources? The first gift-bearers were foreigners, and the Church calls us to welcome the stranger.

Thank you for the gift of being a community of love and generosity. Let us continue to challenge our hearts to make more room for Christ, our minds to be open to the unexpected

messages and messengers and our community to be a church of welcome to all who come to us. Merry Christmas!

Live Jesus!

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