



Christmas 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

*“Today, the twenty-fifth day of December, unknown ages from the time when God in the beginning created the heavens and the earth and then formed man and woman in his own image...”*

From this ancient point in time, unknown with any certainty, we begin to recount the markings of time that preceded the birth of Christ. The proclamation of the Birth of Christ, read every Christmas, refers to the great flood, the time of Abraham and Sarah, Moses leading God’s people out of Egypt, the kingship of David, the prophecy of Daniel, the Olympics, the founding of Rome, the reign of Augustus and at last, the birth of Christ, “according to the flesh.”

Why do we recount this timeline of events? What is the importance of marking the thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of years that preceded the birth of Jesus? Because it helps us understand that the moment of Jesus’ birth is a singular moment. It is the moment of the Incarnation, when all of

human history was changed forever by this merger of the divine with our humanity in the person of Jesus. It is not the historical dimension of this singular moment that we celebrate at Christmas; it is the fact that this singular moment in time makes Christ present to each of us, every day, 2022 years later. The birth of Christ is not a romantic story or sentimental rite that we celebrate. It is our celebration of the Incarnation when God, by sharing in our humanity, gives us the gift of new life – a new life that assures us of the grace of unconditional love and forgiveness and that calls us to be just, merciful, humble servants of one another. When we celebrate Christmas we share in this Incarnation, we share in this new life, by putting on Christ and living as Christ has taught us.

Christmas has a way of bringing to Church individuals and families who, for various reasons, have not been to Mass or the Sacraments for months or years. What a wonderful and grace-filled opportunity to put aside past differences and old habits and begin anew that prayerful relationship with the Eucharistic Lord and His Church. I extend to all of you an open, grateful heart of welcome. Together, may we grow in strength and grace to know and celebrate together God's presence in our lives and His dominion over all things of this world, to work together to *“restore all things in Christ.”*

Each Christmas we conclude the Proclamation of the Birth of Christ by saying, *“Today is the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the flesh.”* We can carry the Nativity, the gift of new life, in our hearts every day. My prayer for all of you this Christmas is that every day will be the Nativity of the Lord; that you will encounter Christ in your daily lives, and you will reflect Christ for all those whose lives you touch. May you have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

With love and prayer,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Father George". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

Rev. George Zięba, C.R.  
Pastor

**December 24 ♦ Christmas Eve**

**Holy Mass:**

**4:00 pm ♦ 10:00 pm**

**Santa Misa en Español: 7:00 pm**

**December 25 ♦ Christmas**

**Holy Mass:**

**8:00 am ♦ 10:00 am**