

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: 2023



Friends in Christ,

Today is Christmas! We celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation. “The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1.14). Christmas is indeed a love story; the greatest love story ever told and ever lived. It is the story of God’s superabundant love for us. For God so loved the world that in the fullness of time, He sent His only-begotten Son, born of a woman, to save and redeem us from sin and death. Our hearts beat with joy in being saved- freed and loved. Today all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. The Good News of salvation brings joy to the world and peace to people on earth. This inestimable gift of God’s love to us comes wrapped in silence.

Silence brings about the greatest revelation: it reveals God to us. It also reveals us to ourselves. We welcome You in our midst, Emmanuel, our God with us. Christmas marks a unique moment of God’s self-communication in human history and another opportunity for us to express our solidarity as we journey together in faith.

In the spirit of the Christmas season, may I extend my warmest wishes to each one of you. Christmas is a time of reflection, love and shared moments of joy, and it is my pleasure to celebrate this special occasion with the esteemed members of our parish community. This celebration reminds us of the profound values that unite us in our common and shared mission of sharing the message of the Gospel. The bonds we have formed and the collaborative efforts we have initiated throughout the year have strengthened the fabric of our parish community.

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Through our collective efforts and commitment as a family of God, we have given birth to many initiatives this year that have enriched our faith, strengthened a vital Christian community and reinvigorated our common desire to be effective channels of God's mercy and forgiveness to one another. Thus, may this season of Christmas be a time of peace and goodwill for you and your loved ones. May this spirit of joy and harmony prevail in your homes and to everyone you may meet during this season, fostering a sense of unity and understanding. May the Prince of Peace grant you and your family and our Christian community, peace and love, as well as to all men and women of goodwill.

May I take this opportunity to express gratitude for the meaningful work that has been accomplished in the service of our Christian community. Your dedication to the mission and shared values of our Christian community has made a positive impact on the lives of many. As we look forward to a new year filled with possibilities, including the celebration of the 70th anniversary of our parish, may the joy of Christmas inspire us to continue our shared mission of fostering unity and peace throughout our parish community.

Thank you for your tireless efforts, commitment, and contributions to our shared mission and values. May this Christmas season bring you peace, happiness, and the warmth of fellowship. Wishing you and your families, a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year 2024!

Sincerely

Fr. Francis Chidi Ezenezi

Pastor: Saint Peter the Apostle Roman Catholic Parish

North Bay, ON

December 22, 2023

