

Fr. Carmen's Corner



Glory to God in the Highest!

The sound of Carols being song, lights, garland, pretty displays, and trees decorated with ornaments, cookies and treats filling many plates. These are just some of the sights, smells and sounds of the season. We are far into the Christmas Season. A time we all wait for with great anticipation. We love to think of the holiday time as beginning with Thanksgiving. But the stores seem to begin the season two weeks after Labor Day, battering us with all sorts of ads for clothing, toys and other gifts. It has not become uncommon to see Christmas Trees set-up in a store right next to Halloween witches. But, all that aside we ought not to let that distract us from this wonderful time. As we look at all that is around us, we need to see the beauty of this time with the eyes of the child that is within all of us. Too often though we get caught up in all the rush of buying the right thing, because we want to make someone feel special. As I started to say we need to not let ourselves get bogged down by all that so that like Charlie Brown we ask what the meaning of Christmas is all about. The child like wonder can help shield us from the commercialism that is so much a part of this time.

We need to keep in mind the holiness of this season, and the people in our lives that make it a time of wonder. It is letting people know how much they mean to us, not by the dollar amount we spend on them, but telling them what they mean to us. Of course we ought not just do this in the Christmas Season but all through the year. As I have said many times, it is not the amount that is in our checkbook that makes us rich, but the people in our life whom we love and who love us.

We also keep the holiness of this time by being a people of faith. If we are deep in our faith, Wall St. will not be the end and all of our holiday season. But, remembering the great gift that

has been given to us. That gift which was announced to us back in March when the Archangel Gabriel announce to Mary that she had been chosen by God the Father to be the Mother of Jesus. That holy announcement which made once again on that Most holy of all nights when the angels announced to the shepherds that the Christ had been born. They went to see and with great wonder entered that stable to see the birth of salvation as the Word of God became flesh.

I believe if we accept the greeting of the angel in the same spirit as the shepherds, we will have that child- like wonder rise in us. On this Christmas Eve, as we gather with family to share the oplatki and Holy Super with family, suggest attending Midnight Mass to experience this great gift. It will make all the other gifts we receive special. Let us also give the gift of love to all those who mean so much to us.

As you approach the manger and gaze on the Infant Jesus do it with the same spirit as did the shepherds, and like them, go and tell everyone we meet about it. Greet one another with the words "CHRIST IS BORN! GLORIFY HIM!"

I think it will add so much to your holiday season. You may find that you are not sitting there asking that depressing question, "What was all this for?" You will know and feel it in your heart. Keep that feeling in your heart all year as you let the Christ Child dwell in your heart.

I want to take this time to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

[Return Home](#)