

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of Assumption Parish family,

As we prepare to close out a 2021 year that no doubt is unprecedented in all our lives, there are memories of challenge in this past year that we may never want to relive. At the same time, there are also memories of creativity and support that will also etch themselves in our hearts for the rest of our lives. Whether we have been infected by the Covid19 virus directly or not, we have all been affected one way or another!

We associate our journey of this past year to the Christmas story of the Holy Family, whose own journey from the familiar Nazorean and Galilean neighborhood pointed toward the uncertainty of Bethlehem. St. Joseph led his wife toward the House of David (Bethlehem), for the reason that all inhabitants of various regions of the kingdoms needed to be registered (census) according to the decree of the Roman emperor, Augustus. St. Joseph's parents and his lineage came from the area of Bethlehem even though St. Joseph did not live there nor have family living there at the time of the census.

This census was certainly not convenient for a pregnancy, let alone to travel there with no certainty of any family support. This uncertainty called this couple to rely on the providence of God amidst the anxiety and challenges they would face. Little did they even have a clue that upon the birth of this King, his life would be threatened to the point that many other babies and children are killed because He is a person of interest. They would not have dreamt in a million years that after the birth of the Messiah, they would all have to flee the country because the threats were all too real!

The uncertainty of this time calls us to rely on the God of Providence through our prayer, devotion, and charity toward others. We need to liken our approach with the humility & trust in God as we shed away our self-assuredness. We need to recognize the importance of working toward the common good that this global pandemic has called for.

Part of what allowed the Holy Family to be successful in the midst of adversity was to not only support one another during frustrations & annoyances as they sought out God's guidance each day, but also their lives were less complicated by living with noble simplicity. Acknowledging the good of a person while thanking them for the good, gives us perspective of an individual's shortcomings. Simpler living draws us to a focus on what God's wants for us, rather than being entitled to what we feel we are owed!

May this Christmas be for us a renewal of these basic virtues of kindness and simplicity during these challenging times.

We want to thank you, our parish family members, for your prayerful support and example of perseverance you have demonstrated to us during this pandemic thus far. Please continue to pray for us as we celebrate the liturgies of this Christmas season.

With prayers for you and your family members this Christmas Season & 2022 New Year, we remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Fr. James Hughes
Pastor



Fr. Larry Lynn
Assistant Pastor