

Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord - Pax Christi!
December 25, 2021.

Merry Christmas, everyone. May the Peace of Christ that draws us to the humble stable of Bethlehem, fill our minds and hearts. May our families, our country and our Church have peace. Every year brings with it unexpected blessings, and unexpected challenges. This year has been no different. No matter what life has brought us, there is something extremely beautiful that at the end of the year we are celebrating our reason for hope. ***Jesus the Christ has been born! The eternal Second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Word of God, has become flesh and dwelt among us.***

To celebrate Christmas, we are all busy writing Christmas letters, sending Christmas cards, decorating the house, buying and wrapping gifts, preparing the family Christmas Eve dinner, making yummy cookies and desserts, etc. Over indulgence during the Christmas holiday season is expected. Butchy, a little one year old beagle, took it a bit too far last year. Butchy promptly attacked the pies and cookies with a vengeance when her owner stepped away from the kitchen. She managed to lick, bite, gobble and destroy 2 apple pies, 3 pecan pies, and four dozens of butter cookies. This "special treat" included the foil pie pans and plastic wrap. Butchy's owner Betty returned to the kitchen after adding the final touches to the Christmas tree, and the nativity scene. She found Butchy lying in the middle of the floor, on her back, with feet in the air. Her belly nearly doubled its normal size. Betty took an emergency trip to the vet and Butchy made a mess in the car when she got sick! The vet gave some laxative pills for Butchy, so she could pass the sharp foil pieces without serious stomach damage. Hopefully Butchy learned the lesson and "repent and sin" no more this year.

Most of the time, we forget that we are all cordially invited to a Christmas banquet:

GUEST OF HONOUR: JESUS CHRIST

DATE: Every day. Traditionally, December 25, but He's always around, so the date is flexible.

TIME: Whenever you're ready. Please don't be too late, or you'll miss out on all the fun.

PLACE: In your heart. He'll meet you there - you'll hear Him knock.

ATTIRE: Come as you are. Grubbies are okay as He said something about new white robes and crowns for everyone who come.

TICKETS: Admission is free. He's already paid for everyone. He says you wouldn't have been able to afford it — it cost Him everything He had, including Himself!

REFRESHMENTS: New wine, bread, a supper that promises to be out of this world!!

GIFT SUGGESTIONS: Your heart. He's one of those people who already has everything else. (He's very generous in return though —just wait until you see what He has for you!)

ENTERTAINMENT: Story books, videos and songs on Joy, Peace, Truth, Light, Love, Miracles, Healing, Eternity in Paradise. (All rated "G" so bring your family and friends)

RSVP: Very Important! He wants to know ahead, so He can reserve a spot for you at the table. Also, he's keeping a list of His friends for future reference. He calls it the "Lamb's Book of Life."

PARTY GIVEN BY: His Kids. Yes that's you and me. Hope To See You There! Let us rejoice and be glad and give Him glory! **Blessed are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb!**

During this time of the year, peoples seem to focus on Santa Claus more than Jesus. There are Santa Claus parades almost everywhere with smiles on thousands of faces, both young and old alike waiting for a look at that most popular man all over the world. We can hear 'em shout singing: ***"Here comes Santa Claus, here comes Santa Claus, right down Santa Claus Lane. ... Bells are ringing, children singing, all is merry and bright. So jump in bed and cover your head, 'cause Santa Claus comes tonight. He is a miracle come to all if we***

just follow the light. So let's give thanks to the Lord above, 'cause Santa Claus comes tonight." People thank God for Santa Claus instead of Jesus in the manger.

When Mom took the four year old Ruthie to her paediatrician for an annual check-up after Christmas, Doctor Wilson looked into her ears with his otoscope and said: "Do you think I'll find an elf in here?" Ruthie was silent. So Doc Wilson reached for a tongue depressor and looked down her throat and asked: "Do yo think I'll find Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer down there?" Again, Ruthie was silent. Then Doctor Wilson put on his stethoscope and began listening to her heart beat. And he asked: "Do you think I'll find Santa in there?" This time Ruthie replied: "Oh no. Mom said **Jesus is always in our hearts**. If you want to see Santa, he is on my underpants."

It is the current materialistic world that distracts us and we forgot to keep Jesus Christ in Christmas. Jesus is far more supreme than Santa Claus:

Santa lives at the North Pole... JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh... JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year... JESUS is an ever-present help.

Santa fills our stockings with goodies... JESUS supplies all our needs.

Santa comes down the chimney uninvited... JESUS stands at the door and knocks, and then enters our heart when invited.

You have to wait in line to see Santa... JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets us sit on his lap... JESUS lets us rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know our name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?"...

JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only does He know our name, He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly... JESUS has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is "HO HO HO..." JESUS offers **Health, Help and Hope**.

Santa says "You'd better not cry"... JESUS weeps for us and says, "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."

Santa's little helpers make toys... JESUS helpers (disciples) make new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds Church.

Santa may make us chuckle but... JESUS gives us joy that is our strength.

While Santa puts gifts under our tree... JESUS became our gift and died on a tree.

It's obvious there is really no comparison. ***We need to remember WHO Christmas is all about. We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas, and we need the Mass to make it complete. Jesus is the reason for the season. Yes, JESUS is better, He is even better than Santa Claus. Merry CHRISTMAS!***

There is a legend of an African boy called Emmanuel, who was always asking questions. One day he asked the question, "What language does God speak?" No one could answer him. He traveled all over his country to find the answer but did not get a satisfactory answer. Eventually he set out for distant lands to find the answer but had no success. At last he came one night to a village called Bethlehem and as there was no room in the local inn, he went outside the village in search for a shelter for the night. He came to a manger and found that too was occupied by a couple and a child. He was about to turn away when the young mother spoke, **'Welcome Emmanuel, we've been waiting for you.'** The boy was amazed that the woman knew his name. He was even more amazed when she went on to say, **"For a long time you have been searching the world over to find out what language God speaks. Well, now your journey is over. Tonight you can see with your own eyes what language God speaks. He speaks the language of love, that is expressed in sharing, understanding, mercy and total acceptance."** ***Again, Merry Christmas!***