

CORONAVIRUS CHRISTMAS SEASON 2020-2021

"A THRILL OF HOPE THE WEARY WORLD REJOICES..."

My dear brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Along with many other feelings that describe the impact of Coronavirus on our lives, weariness is probably what most of us have been experiencing during most of 2020. We are indeed living in a weary world.

In this line from the popular Christmas carol "O, Holy Night", our weary world is sandwiched between hope and rejoicing. Jesus, whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas time, came to bring Good News into our weary world.

Our weariness from being attacked by Coronavirus, protests of institutional injustice, increasingly extreme weather patterns can lead to feelings of hopeLESSness.

Jesus came to save us from the hopeless consequences of sin with a spirit of hopeFULLness. Life has meaning, whether the winds of time are carrying us along or opposing us.

Although our physical attendance at Mass had been truncated after the middle of March, we have been able to return to a severely limited participation without singing, lectors, altar servers, offertory procession or sign of peace. Upon entering church for Mass we have put on our masks, been checked for signs of unhealthiness, have sanitized our hands and have been directed to places in the pews, six feet away from others of course.

Whether you feel safe and capable or not of attending Mass during these beautiful days of the Christmas Season (the feasts of Christmas, Holy Family, Mary, Mother of the Church, Three Kings or Epiphany, concluding with the Baptism of Jesus), we invite you to enter into the spirit of the season seeking the thrill of hope and rejoicing in a weary world in your homes with televised Mass participation or personal or family devotions.

On behalf of Fr. Joe, Deacon Francisco, Sister Patricia and our entire parish staff, I wish you a hopeFULL and joyous break from the problems confronting us, continuing into the New Year of God's grace.

Your brother in Christ,

Msgr. John J. Grabish