

## In this season of Christmas, may our lives proclaim "Joy to the world! The Lord has come!"

**Let the joy of "THE LORD HAS COME!" shine from you. But how, when troubles make the world seem dark?**

It's only possible when we keep our eyes on Jesus. Don't focus on what destroys your joy, for nothing can destroy the coming of the Lord. The absence of joy is merely a blank area in your view of what God is doing.

Look at the love that Jesus has for you! Jesus was born not only to save you from the darkness of sin; He was born because He loves you – He loves YOU! Even if you had never sinned, he would have come into the world so that he could love YOU on your level, human-to-human.

### Giving birth to love

Sometimes, great things come in surprising packages that do not seem to be great at all. The Eucharist – in the form of a little wafer of bread – does not look like it contains the full presence of Jesus with all of His humanity and His divinity. The baby Jesus – a tiny, helpless child – does not look like the conqueror of evil. But He is! And so is Jesus in the Eucharist; He is here for you.

And you! You might not seem to be a great person, but you contain Jesus. You contain greatness beyond imagining! This greatness does not dwell only *in* you; it comes out *from* you in the form of love.

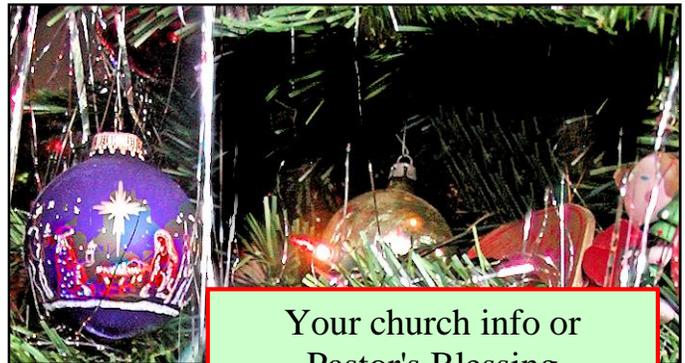
We can know for sure that we have Jesus within us because of the love that we give to others. We know for sure that we can be victorious over evil when Christ's love extends outward to others from within us. It is Christ's love in the world – through us – that defeats the darkness of hardships and troubles.

Jesus comes to us, not to be served, but to serve our needs. He even laid down his life for you!

To be a follower of Jesus means we learn to imitate him. Christians are not here to be served by those who treat us poorly. We are here to serve *them*, and in this goodness evil is defeated. In this goodness, the greatness of Jesus extends outward from within us.

Each time we give love to others, whether they deserve it or not, we are giving them the gift of Jesus. We are like Mary, giving birth to love Himself, making every day a Christmas day.

And when the giving gets tiring, we need to return to the Eucharist to be nourished and healed and restored by Jesus Himself, for His love is our Christmas gift from God.



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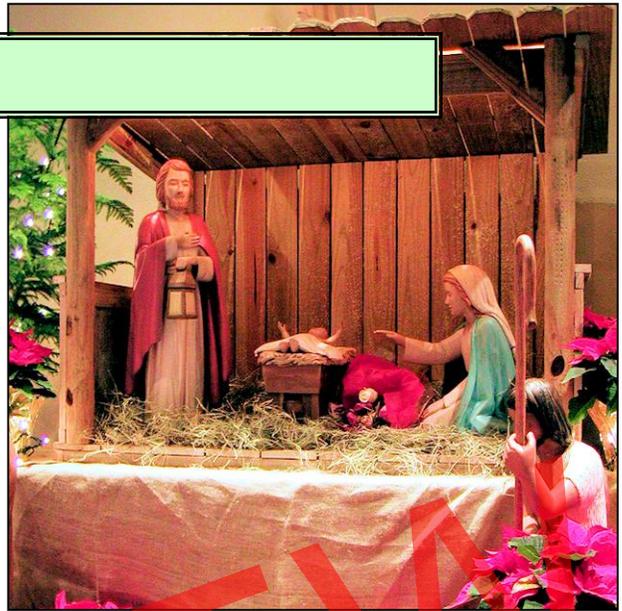
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## A Christmas Gift for You

**Oh little Jesus, lying in the manger there,  
as one so small, were you aware  
that you were born to die for me,  
that you were born to set me free?**

**Oh little babe so full of love,  
my precious gift from God above,  
did you know my wretchedness,  
did you know my sinfulness?**

**Oh baby Savior born so small,  
the biggest wonder of it all  
is now You stand here at my side  
to be my Hope, My love, my Guide!**



**Have a merry and  
very blessed  
Christmas!**

Think about the reality of Baby Jesus in the manger. Envision yourself visiting the Holy Family in Bethlehem, in a simple cave being used as animal stable:

Although Jesus is only a newborn, his eyes meet yours, and they dance for joy! Not because of anything you've done, not because of anything you could ever do, but because he is delighted that you are here.

His little baby feet kick like infants normally do when they are excited but can't yet control their arms and legs. His tiny mouth can't form a smile yet, but his heart is smiling very big at you. Oh how this little baby already knows you and loves you!

Do you wonder what it would be like to hold the baby Jesus? Do you feel too unworthy? To hold Jesus as that precious but wobbly little baby in your arms ~ it just doesn't seem right to be bigger than he is, does it? But the Blessed Mother lifts him from the manger and places him in your hands. Ahh, she is so happy to have the privilege of giving to you her darling little Son! It's her Christmas gift for you.

Jesus is at church today. You can hold him during Mass in the Holy Eucharist. He is here at every Mass.

**If you are unable to join us today  
in receiving Jesus Christ in the  
Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist,  
please ask us to help you clear the  
way. Usually, it's easier than you  
might think! If you desire it, there  
is a way. Jesus wants to give  
himself to you!**

**Come and experience the unity.  
Feel the peace.  
Be empowered by the blessings  
of a sacramental life.**

**Contact:  
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