

## He will be called The Prince of Peace

Christmas 2014

December 24 thru January 11

Dear friends in Christ,

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" This is probably the most popular hymn that we hear being sung before Christmas as we wait to celebrate the Birth of the Lord on December 25. We call out for the Lord to come and we already are rejoicing as we know that Emmanuel, God with us, will come as He has promised.

However, God does not want to come to us only at Christmas. He wants to come to us every day of the year. And, He does come to us. Do we open our hearts to receive Him or do we shut the door of our hearts so that we can just do what pleases us even though it may be sinful? God comes to us in the person of His Son, Jesus, born in a manger among animals and strangers. He wants to show us that despite the conditions in which we may be living and despite the difficult situations we may be experiencing God can come to us in the midst of it all and make all things new.

As we read in the Gospel of John on Christmas Day, "the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (Jn 1:5) Allow the glory of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, to come into your life in His fullness so that you will always live in the light and splendor of God. The story of Christmas is not some sort of fairytale, it is a reality that happened over 2000 years ago and it is a reality that has continued to occur each and every day ever since that first Christmas.

For us, as Catholic Christians, two words which are synonymous with one another, Jesus comes to be born within each one of us every day of our lives, especially as we receive Him in Holy Communion. My prayer for all of you is that you will experience this new birth every day and know that our Lord is with you always.

May each of you and your families have a very...

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Veselé vánoce a Šťastný nový rok!

Fröhliche Weihnachten und ein gutes neues Jahr!

¡Feliz Navidad y próspero año nuevo!

Joyeux Noël et bonne année!

Wesołych świąt i szczęśliwego Nowego Roku!

Fr. Stephen Nesrsta, farář