

Dear Parish Family,

We sometimes get so caught up in the problems and suffering caused by human weakness and sin that we forget the joy of the Christian life; the joy of a generous God who cares for us; the joy of the beauty of God's creation, which reflects His glory; the joy of being called into relationship to the Lord; the joy of being part of the body of Christ, the joy of our inheritance of the City of God, the joy of a life full of meaning and direction.



We travel now through the season of epiphany, a season of light, celebrating the manifestation of the Christ and the revelation of the Gospel to the nations. We are reminded of the joy of Simeon and Hannah when they beheld the Christ child in the Temple. Simeon longed to see the Christ — a wish he was granted. He praised the Lord saying, “...my eyes have seen your salvation.” (Luke 2:30 NIV) Hannah also gave thanks to God for the privilege of seeing the Christ child. They would die in the peace of Christ. (Luke 2)

During this time we remember what John tells us in his Gospel that the light shines in the darkness. The Word, the light of the world, has come to bring us eternal life. As the great doctors of the Church like Saint Augustine and Saint Thomas Aquinas remind us, we were intended for fellowship with God.

Our fellowship began in Baptism and will be consummated when we enter heaven.

Light has come to us. Joy has come to us. Let us take Saint Paul's advice, “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4 NIV)

In Christ,

Pastor Mike & Pastor Mandy