



**Blessed Sacrament Parish**  
**Homily by Father Mike Kuse**  
**December 24, 2018 Christmas Vigil**

**Reading I Isaiah 9:1-6**

**Psalm 96:1-13**

**Reading II Letter to St. Paul to Titus (Titus 2:11-14)**

**Gospel Luke 2:1-14**

**Homily**

You and I came into the world because God wanted us in the world. And when God wants something he creates everything so it will be achieved and that's why we have parents and grandparents, and why we have that desire to keep passing it on to one generation to the next because God has created us in such a way to fall in love, and to feel that Spirit, and to know that when you have love—you have Spirit. And don't keep it for yourself, but you always be willing to share and to bring something new into the world.

And God says, "Don't worry about anything. When I am in charge it all turns out the way I want it to be."

My parents didn't know if I was going to be a boy or a girl. They knew the approximate day when I was going to be born, but they didn't know the exact day or the hour. And that is true for everyone sitting here. But we came into the world at the appointed time. And that's where Christmas comes in and why we celebrate every year. It's not because we can go shopping, and we can bake, we have meals and we can decorate our homes, we can have Christmas because you and I need that reminder every year that somebody else is in charge and someone else is the light, and someone else is giving us hope, and someone else is creating that Spirit.

He says, "If you don't come together and celebrate this birth of Christ—chances are you are going to forget. That's why the passage of light is so important. Children will not understand it. That's why I planned it like that. If I hadn't planned for one generation to follow after another—Christmas would just be another holiday and you would think, 'Oh, Christmas is just another holiday and I get off work.' " But instead God says, "Because of the way I have it planned, you are never going to forget, and joy is going to come into your life, and you have to remember that every Christmas changes us."

We could be here all night if I asked each one of you to tell us what happened since last Christmas in your life. You might be amazed when people start sharing things: "Well, that happened to me too. And I often wondered why that happened." And we start sharing our stories—that's what keeps Christmas alive. And that is what keeps the Spirit

of God alive in each one of us. So when we leave church tonight it is not that we think: “Well, I’ve got to go to Mass on Christmas.” You go to Mass all the time. Why? Because we need that Spirit to be renewed in us over and over again. But tonight, on Christmas Eve, we come because the Spirit of God was given to one person who would transform the entire world. And God says, “I don’t want you to ever forget that.”

And so when we say, “Merry Christmas,” we are changing someone’s life. There are many today for whom this will not be a happy Christmas. I got a phone call about an hour ago and one of our priests is critically ill and will be dying very shortly. He is on Hospice. But this is a wonderful Christmas and he said, “I am ready to go. I have suffered for so many years and I am ready to go home. But I wouldn’t trade my life for anything.”

So death is not a bad thing. It’s only selfishly that we want everybody to stick around and there comes that moment when God says, “The Spirit of God is here with us. Bring that home. I want you to see now when you get on the dance floor of Heaven how beautiful your life was, and how all the Christmases made a difference in your homes, in your family, in yourself.”

So tonight, let’s be filled with that Spirit. Let’s be excited and let’s watch children. They know how to get excited. Jesus says, “I knew you wouldn’t forget, so I kept bringing children into the world so you would never forget.”

So tonight, may we feel that Spirit and may all the children who are celebrating their very first Christmas who won’t even know it’s Christmas except everybody will make over them—enjoy celebrating their first Christmas because they are loved. And their family will say, “Next Christmas will be a little different, and then next Christmas and then the next Christmas. And then eventually we get to make Christmas for someone else.”

Jesus says to us, “Do you get that picture? Hold on to it. It is the most beautiful thing I have given you. But you need to know when I want you to come home. It isn’t how many Christmases you live, it’s how you live each Christmas.” And that’s why we are here tonight. Not to say Merry Christmas to one another, but to say “Wow. This is just absolutely fantastic.”

And when you walk out of church, and you look up at the sky and you see the moon and you see the stars and God says, “I am never going to leave you in darkness. I always wanted you to have light. I created the darkness so you would get excited about the light. I want you to have noise and laughter but I also want you to have quiet—between you and me—because I want to say to you, ‘I love you. And may you say it to every body else—I love you.’”

There’s someone waiting in this world who is waiting for you to say “hello” and smile and to say to that person, “I want to do something for you.” It is like the man who came

up to me several years ago and handed me an envelope and said, "Father, there is ten one hundred dollar bills in this envelope and I want you to give those away to make a difference in someone life." He didn't want anyone to know who he was, but the Spirit of Christmas was in his heart. He said to me, "I don't need this, but I know you will know some people who do."

Let us live Christmas today and every day of our lives.

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