December 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

On that first Christmas, the angels praised God, saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth to men of good will.” The shepherds came and adored the newborn Savior. St. Luke wrote, “And Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart.”

We too need to pause and treasure the gift of Christmas in our hearts. And that gift is simply Jesus, true God who became true man, who came to reveal perfectly God’s truth and love to us, who died and rose for our salvation, and who founded a Church—a family—where His presence continues in both Word and Sacrament. Treasure and reflect on the gift of Jesus and the faith you share in Him as a member of the Catholic Church.

Moreover, we must not let Christmas just be a passing day. Live in the spirit of Christmas. Reflect upon how to better treasure this gift each day by making prayer a critical part of your day, by continuing to read Sacred Scripture and the teachings of our Church, by having a stronger devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and the Mass, by daily making a self-examination of conscience and going to Confession regularly, and doing good works for those entrusted to our care and for those in need. May such reflection of the gift of Christmas move us by God’s grace to an even more intimate relationship with our Lord this year. May our souls be like the stable in Bethlehem where Christ first dwelt among us.

Lastly, as your pastor, I treasure the gift of you and the dedication, sacrifices, and hard work you have shown to make this parish a beacon of Christ’s love. In particular, I thank those who serve in the various ministries and organizations. On behalf of all of the Staff at Saint Leo the Great, I wish each of you a blessed and joyous Christmas and New Year! Please be assured of my prayers for your intentions and a remembrance at Holy Mass. May the peace, joy, and love of the Holy Family be present in your lives each day of the New Year.

Fr. Joe
Rev. Dr. Joseph R. Catanise, Pastor

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church
167 Lake Avenue, Hilton, NY 14468
Please join us for our Christmas Celebrations:
December 24: 3:30, 6:00 and 11:00 PM
December 25: 10:30 AM