



*I bring you good tidings of
great joy.*

LUKE 2:10

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Christmas 2020 greetings of healing and hope!

Christmas is one of my favorite seasons of the year: the green trees, the colorful lights, all the enjoyable music, and above all, the birth of a savior for all the people to offer us great warmth, inspiration and hope.

This Christmas, unlike last one, is going to be historic. We may not be able to do some of the traditional things we normally do. At the same time, we are challenged to find new ways to celebrate this wonder of God's incarnation, Jesus coming into our World, and our lives. We might have to simplify our decorations or have our family gatherings online or even attend Mass on TV. These changes also offer each one of us time to reflect and re-examine our lives, our desires, and expectations: what do we need Jesus to come into our lives for?

For me, there are two things I desire the most this Christmas: **healing and hope**. Faced with the continuous dangers of COVID-19, I earnestly pray that our human family will truly and really receive the gifts of God's healing and hope. "*I, the Lord, am your healer*" (Exodus 15: 26). And Jesus is our "*blessed hope*." I find the second reading for the Nativity of the Lord's mass during the night very powerful and enlightening:

Beloved:

The grace of God has appeared, saving all
and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires
and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age,
as we await the blessed hope,
the appearance of the glory of our great God
and savior Jesus Christ,
who gave himself for us to deliver us from all lawlessness
and to cleanse for himself a people as his own,
eager to do what is good. (Titus 2:11-14)

The celebration of the birth of our savior can bring us God's healing power and reaffirm our hope. Jesus, our healer and hope, comes to save us, to transform us, and to empower us to do "what is good." May the celebration of this Christmas touch the core of our human existence, heal the wounds of our offenses, and give us undying hope in the Lord.

Lastly, as you receive God's gifts this Christmas, I invite you kindly offer a gift to our parish and prudently consider joining our parish's Christmas celebrations in person or online. Our volunteer greeters have been doing a great job to help all in person mass participants observe all the CDC and Archdiocese safety guidelines. I am grateful and confident that they will continue to do so for our Christmas celebrations. With six masses and two live-streamed masses, we should have enough space and options for you to choose. If out of abundance of caution you can't join us in person on Christmas, you are encouraged to observe the octave of Christmas. For your convenience, please see the schedule on the other side. **With all my heart, I wish you and your loved ones a SAFE and HOPEFUL Christmas and a BLESSED New Year of 2021.** You are in my daily prayers. Please keep me and St. Mother Teresa Parish in yours!

With gratitude and prayers!


Fr. Francis Li

(over please)

Upcoming Special Events and Schedule---2020 & 2021

Tuesdays Alpha on Zoom

Nov. 22 nd - Dec. 20 th	Baby Bottle Project to benefit The Women's Center
December 4 th	7pm Holy Hour at St. Therese Church
December 5 th	8am Healing Mass at St. Barbara Chapel
December 6 th	Feast of St. Barbara at the 9:30am Mass
December 8 th	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary 8:00am Mass at St. Barbara and 7:00pm Mass at St. Therese
December 12 th	5:00pm Simbang Gabi Mass
December 20 th	Mandarin Mass at 12:30pm and Christmas Cantata at 7:30pm on Zoom
December 24 th	Christmas Eve Mass at 5pm at St. Therese (Live-Streamed @ http://www.youtube.com/StMotherTeresaOfCalcuttaParishChicago)
December 25 th	Christmas Carols at 11:30pm Christmas Mass at 12am (Midnight Mass) at St. Barbara Church Christmas Day Masses: 6:00am and 9:30am at St. Barbara Church 8:00am and 11:00am (Live-Streamed @ http://www.youtube.com/StMotherTeresaOfCalcuttaParishChicago) at St. Therese Church
December 26 th - 27 th	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph Masses: 5:00pm Vigil, 6:00am, and 9:30am at St. Barbara Church 8:00am and 10:30am at St. Therese Church
December 31 st	New Year's Eve Mass at 5pm, followed by BENEDICTION at St. Therese
January 1 st	2021 New Year's Day Masses: 9:30am at St. Barbara Church 10:00am at St. Therese Church

Our parish offers the following regular opportunities to pray the rosary together.

- 1.) 5:30am on Sundays at St. Barbara Church
- 2.) 5pm on Mondays with Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity at St. Therese Church
- 3.) 2:30pm on Tuesdays in Mandarin on Zoom
- 4.) 7pm on Wednesdays in English on Zoom
- 5.) First Friday of the Month at 7pm at St. Therese Church

“Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people” (Luke 2:11).