

FATHER SCHULTE HOMILY
Christmas Day
December 25, 2020

My Brothers and Sisters,

The Advent Season is now past, and it is now Christmas Day. We are all familiar with the story surrounding the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

For some, the Christmas season is perhaps something of a nuisance, something we endure for the sake of our relatives and children. All the chaos of shopping and family gatherings tend to disrupt our regular routine, and we would just like for it to be over so that we can get on with our everyday life. This might be referred to as the “Scrooge” mentality. And if you don’t know who Scrooge was, have someone tell you the story. Hopefully, you won’t recognize that guy in yourself.

But for most people, Christmas is a beautiful time, a magical time, a sacred time. It recalls how our Lord Jesus Christ humbled himself to be born into this world as a human being, only to suffer and die in sacrifice for his people.

It is a time when we do things to remind ourselves of this sacred event.

- We pray and do penance to prepare ourselves spiritually.
- We decorate the church and our homes to impress upon ourselves the solemnity of the occasion.
- It is an exciting time especially for our children. We remember our own childhood when we observe the excitement of our children.
- It may be the only time when relatives make an effort to visit each other and take pictures that record the changes of our children over time.

All of these activities are important and are themselves inspired by the Holy Spirit because they bind us as family, friends, and neighbors. But the evangelist John reminds us of the real meaning for the season.

- “In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
- “He is the light that came into the world.
- “He is the light and life of man.”
- A light that “shines in the darkness” of the world.

Jesus was born into the World, much like other men.

- From a child he grew into a man and offered his flesh on the cross in atonement for our sins.

Christmas day points to the crucifixion and ultimately to the resurrection from the dead. Christmas is a preparation for Easter. (prelude)

Jesus was born in the town of "Bethlehem", a word that means "House of Bread". He was laid in a feeding trough called a "manger", which comes from the Latin "*Manducare*" "to eat."

Jesus said of himself, "I am the Bread of Life" ...unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you have no life in you.

And so Jesus, the "Bread of Life" was born in Bethlehem, the "House of Bread", and laid in a feeding trough called a "manger" which means "to eat".

Everything was planned out perfectly by God the Father, so that he could give us his son Jesus "the bread of life" to eat, from the "House of Bread", Bethlehem.

If you are receiving Holy Communion today, "the Bread of life" – look over to the crib scene the source of our "bread of life" and say a little prayer of thanksgiving (Eucharist).

Jesus was born into the world to be your spiritual food. He was born and died for that purpose. Christmas points to Easter Sunday.

This Christmas day and every day, I pray that you will take time to renew your family bonds with each other and above all renew your bond with Jesus, your bread of life, in the Holy Eucharist.