

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION



The Christmas season allows us to spend time with the people that matter most. We join together with friends for parties, we gather with family for quality time, and we celebrate the birth of our Lord with neighbors in the Mass. It should come as no surprise that Christmas and community are so intimately linked. Jesus came to bring people together, Jew and Gentile, fisherman and tax collector, priest and prostitute, everyone under a bond of love.

Even at his birth, Jesus was forming communities. In the Gospel readings, we see the creation of a new family as Mary and Joseph wrap their baby in swaddling clothes. We find an early Church, as an angel invites humble shepherds to meet their infant savior. In twelve days' time, we'll reflect on three wise men traveling countless miles, just to pay the newborn king homage. Like the magi, the shepherds, and Jesus' parents, each one of us is called to have a personal relationship with Christ, but none is meant to have a private relationship with Him. This is good news! We don't have to walk this journey alone. As we seek God, we are inevitably drawn closer to each other, and as we seek each other, we are inevitably drawn closer to God!

We at Saint Brigid Parish invite you to join us in this ancient tradition of Christian community. Each Sunday, you can encounter Jesus in the Eucharist and your neighbor in the pew, and we hope you'll continue to bless us with your presence. Beyond that, there are countless ways to get more involved, including social events, prayer groups, and service opportunities. So on behalf of your parish community, Merry Christmas and see you in the New Year!

- *When have you experienced a sense of community in your life (school, work, gym, hobbies)?*
- *Like the magi, what gifts do you share with your communities? What gifts have others brought to you?*
- *What are you looking for in your faith community?*