

Dear Parishioners,

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that we believe:

***“the Son of God became man so that we might become God”.***

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Psalm says, ***“The Lord said to me: You are my son; this day I have begotten you”.*** The Gospel of Luke says that Mary

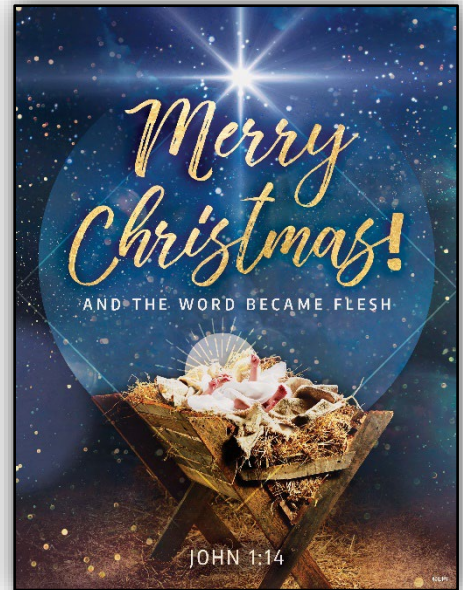
***“...gave birth to her firstborn son.***

***She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger”.*** The Child lying in the manger is truly God’s Son. But

there is more: in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, God himself, became man. God is so great that he can become small. God is so powerful that he can make himself vulnerable and come to us as a defenseless child, so that we can love him. God is so good that he can give up his divine splendor and come down to a stable, so that we might find him, so that his goodness might touch us, and that his goodness can continue to work

through us. This is Christmas: ***“You are my son, this day I have***

***begotten you”*** - God has become one of us, so that we can be with him and become like him.



The shepherds were told: ***“And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”*** The “sign” demands that they learn to discover the

Almighty One in a baby! The “sign of a baby” demands from us to recognize that God is where he wants to be, not where we want Him to be. We have to grow beyond our ideas about God in order to recognize Him. He is born each time we have the Eucharist; do I see Christ or just a piece of bread? The shepherds saw God, not just a baby in the manger.

On Christmas Night, we hear Prophet Isaiah saying, ***“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone”.*** The word “light” marks the whole liturgy of Christmas Mass. The Gospel of Luke says that the glory of the Lord appeared to the shepherds and ***“shone around them”.*** Wherever God’s glory appears, light spreads and darkness despairs. Saint John tells us that ***“God is love”*** and he also says that ***“God is light and in him there is no darkness”.*** Therefore, where there is love, light shines into the world; where there is hatred, the world remains in darkness. In the stable of Bethlehem, there appeared the great light which the world awaits. In that Child lying in the manger, God has shown his glory – the glory of love, which gives itself away, stripping itself of all majesty in order to guide us along the way of love. The light of Bethlehem has never been extinguished. In every age, it has touched men and women, ***“it has shone around them”.*** Wherever people put their faith in that Child born in Bethlehem, charity is present – charity towards others and loving concern for the weak and the suffering. The grace of forgiveness and reconciliation with God and one another is offered.

*May the Baby Jesus bless us. Merry Christmas.*

*Fr. Krzysztof Kardzis*