



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Merry Christmas! We gather in joy, in hope and in awe of God’s love incarnate, born in a manger, born of the Blessed Mother, to be the Savior of all humanity. May we pray into our joy, our hope and awe that we may humbly receive the gift offered to all people.

Christmas is a wonderful time. Christmas is an exciting time. Christmas can be a busy and a very stressful time. May we journey through the Christmas season ever mindful of the gift of the Prince of Peace, born anew in our hearts and lives.

I was immediately drawn into the icon below and the title given to Mary as “Our Lady of Gentleness.” This image icon hangs in the Sisters’ Chapel at Guesthouse\*\* at Lake Orion, Michigan. The beautiful icon and piece of art was created by Fr. Nicholas Troccola who named it “Our Lady of Gentleness.”

In a reflective message of Pope Francis, may we take the following and the icon into prayer this Christmas season.

*“If you think your heart is poor in love, Christmas is for you. The grace of God has appeared, to shine forth in your life. Accept it and the light of Christmas will shine forth in you.”*

*Christmas reminds us that God continues to love us all. His love is unconditional. His love does not change. It is not fickle; it is faithful. It is patient. This is the gift we find at Christmas.*

*Let us receive the gift that is Jesus, in order then to become a gift like Jesus...once we stop trying to change others but try to change ourselves to make of our life a gift.”*



On behalf of the Parish Staff of the Church of St. Mary we wish you and your loved ones the true joy of Jesus this Christmas. If we can be of any support or service to you, please reach out to us at the Parish Office or via email. We will do our best to respond promptly to your request.

Thanks to one and all who have made a generous and sacrificial gift to the Church of St. Mary this Christmas.

In the past year I came across the following quote by C. S. Lewis. “Once in our world a stable had something in it bigger than our whole world.”

(\*\*Guesthouse is a treatment center for men and women religious suffering from addictions and related health issues. Information about their healing ministry is available at **GuestHouse.org.**)

May God bless our receptive hearts with the gift born in a manger in Bethlehem,

*Fr. Mike Nacur*