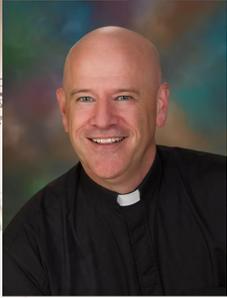


# A Christmas Message from Fr. Dave



When it comes to Christmas, I like all the traditions. If Christmas was different every year, I doubt it would have the same impact. In a society that is so fast paced and always on the go, we want to hold on to the things that bring us comfort and hope. I want to hear the story of Mary and Joseph and the angels and the shepherds and the wise men. I want to sing and hear all the Christmas songs. I want to spend time with family and friends.

Yet, we celebrate Christmas every year knowing that no year is ever the same. Our lives are not the same year after year even though we want Christmas to be the same every year. If you think about it, what we are celebrating on Christmas is probably one of the most dramatic events in the history of the world. Jesus coming to this earth changed everything. God came into our world and into our lives and into our comfort zone and shook things up. Isn't it interesting that on the day when we want absolutely nothing to change, we are actually celebrating the greatest change to ever affect our lives?

One of the changes that Jesus offers us is the gift of salvation. He took on our flesh to save us from sin. But Jesus wants to offer us even more! We are also being saved for greatness and holiness. Through the gift of salvation, Jesus has promised to be with us always so that we can fulfill God's purpose for our life. If that's that case, what is our purpose? I was listening to a testimonial by someone who had rediscovered his faith and he asked, "If God was going to make a movie of your life up to this point in your life, what would the movie be about? Would people be inspired by what they saw? Would people buy tickets to see your movie?"

I am guessing that the movie of our lives may not be as exciting as the movies we see in theaters, but I hope there would be one theme that would be obvious; our love of God and love of our neighbor. Isn't that our true purpose? Isn't that why we live our Catholic faith so that we can find our purpose? Unless we find our purpose, we will never be truly happy or at peace with ourselves or others.

As we celebrate Christmas this year, aren't we all looking for something simpler? Don't we all want a life that is less complicated? We all want something that is real and true and good, and this is what God can offer us. Yes, we sometimes decide to take our life in a different direction than the one God intended, but Jesus Christ is always there to help us get on the right path. Jesus wants to help us find our purpose in life. I hope this Christmas we remember that Jesus not only came to save us from sin but that we have also been saved for greatness and holiness.

May you and your families have a Blessed and Merry Christmas!