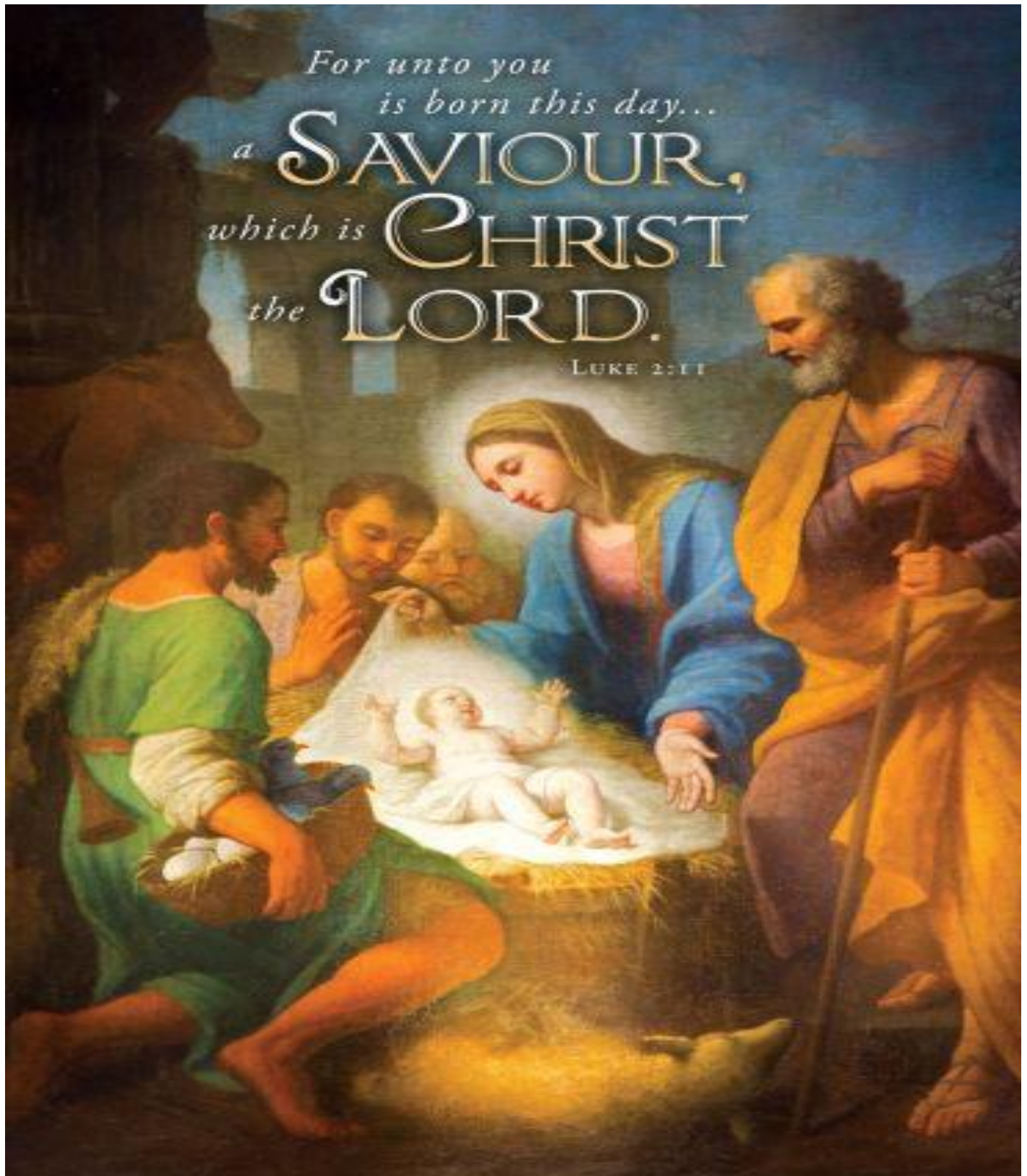


We wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas.

*~ Fr. Ben, Fr. Jerry, Fr. Te, Fr. Paulinus, Deacon Dana, Sr. Noreen &
the staff of St. Monica-St. Thomas the Apostle Parish*





Dear brothers and sisters,

Christ is born for us! What a wonderful gift that has been given! “God has so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son.” On this Christmas Day, we give thanks that the Lord in his love and mercy has come to us. He has drawn so near that he has even become one of us, human like us in all things but sin. He has entered our humanity and redeemed it, lifting it up to share in his divinity. His birth has made us into a new creation, becoming through him children of God.

Our response to Jesus being born should be great rejoicing. Like the angels who appeared to the shepherds in the fields on this day, we too should exclaim “Glory to God in the highest.” We too should be amazed that God would do such a glorious thing, that the Word would be made flesh and dwell among us. As Catholics, this is not only a moment of the past, some 2000 years ago. For us, Christ is born for us now as well. He comes to us at each and every mass in Most Holy Communion, where he is truly present, truly here! We rejoice because he really is Emmanuel, God with us!

We rejoice and give thanks to God. I also thank him for each one of you! Because of your faithfulness, our Parish continues to do the work of the Lord. Because you have responded to God’s call, our community is able to live and share the message of Jesus Christ. I want to thank you for your help in increasing our offertory collection in these past months. Many of you heard the call to be generous to the Church and responded from your heart. I also want to thank those who have helped us in our works of charity this holy season. You stepped forward to make sandwiches, cookies, and to supply for the needy in our community. You are a blessing!

May the Peace of Christ dwell with you always. From all the priests and staff of St. Monica – St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, we wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Fr. Ben