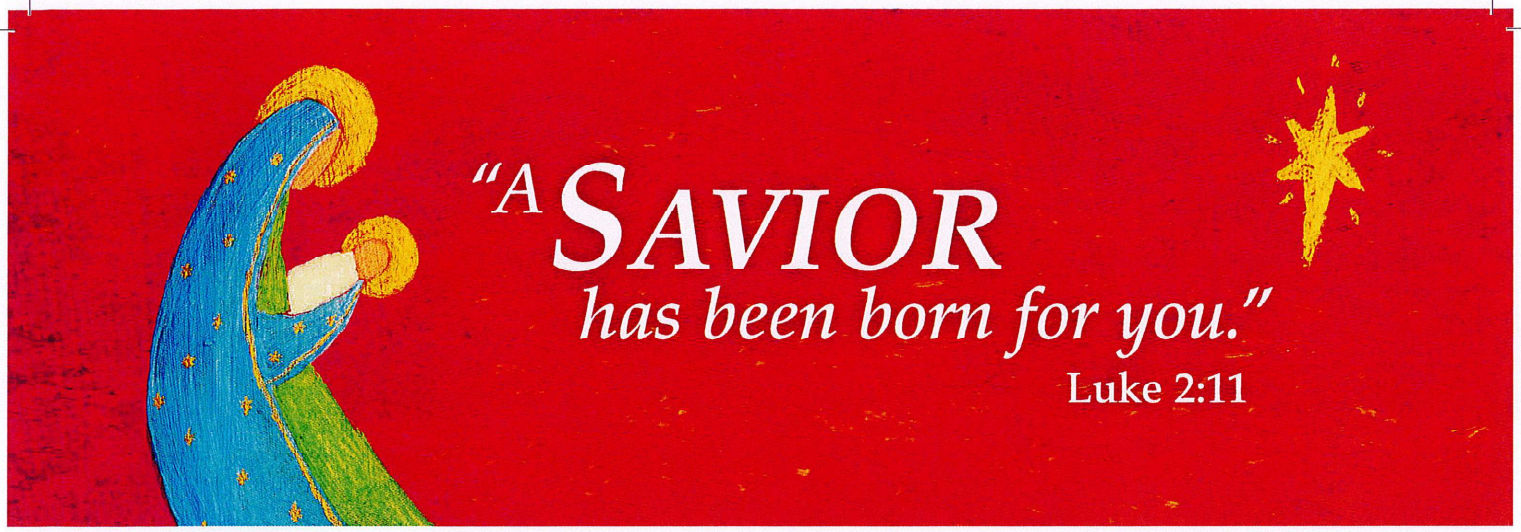


My Beloved parishioner,

It happened to a Christian couple living in the predominantly Jewish city of Brooklyn, New York. This Thomas couple had a little boy named Johnny. One day they were strolling down the street when an old man with a white beard went by them. Little Johnny ran after him, tugged at his coattail and said," Santa Claus, will you please bring me a puppy for Christmas?"

The parents were embarrassed. The old man just winked at the boy, patted him on the head and went on his way.

On Christmas morning there was a knock at the door even before Johnny was out of bed. And there stood that old man, white beard and all, with a little puppy in his arms. He gave it to the surprised young parents and simply said, "I didn't want to disappoint the young fellow."

And as he walked back down the steps, they said, "Goodbye, Rabbi Podolsky. Have a Merry Christmas!"

It is Christmas season again! It is the most beautiful time of the year. For us, church gives us four weeks of Advent season to prepare our hearts and minds to celebrate the wonderous gift of our Savior, who out of immense love, chose to take on human form. Advent is a season rich with anticipation and reflection as we prepare once again to commemorate the birth of the Christ Child. In the hustle and bustle of our daily lives, we can easily overlook the significance of this season. Advent calls to slow down and focus on this true meaning of Christmas.

As we continue to journey through Advent and come to the conclusion of the Jubilee year, year of Hope, in his letter promulgating this holy year, our late holy father Pope Francis reminds us that " We are called to tangible signs of hope for those our brothers and sisters who experience hardships of any kind ... Do we watch His presence in our everyday lives? God is always speaking to us - in the laughter of a child, in the kindness of a stranger, and even in the stillness of our own hearts.

Saint Joseph the Worker Church Bonneauville wishes you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!

Sincerely in Christ,

Father Benny Jose

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