



ST. JOHN VIANNEY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Dear Members of St John Vianney Parish,

Christmas is a day for us to remember God's merciful love. Through Jesus, the Word became flesh and we come to know who God really is – He is love. God's love is extended to everyone, the entire creation.

In Jesus, we are given a home – a place where we experience forgiveness, mercy, and love. This is what we celebrate on Christmas: God, our welcoming Father, giving us a place in His heart. Christmas has a way of bringing families together.

2020 has been a special year to remember due to this global pandemic. It has been a year for a new normal: a year to live with social distancing, sanitizing, wearing masks, isolation, and quarantine. These words have become a part of our every day life. The extensive restrictions over our social lives have affected us to know its value. Even though Churches remained closed for public worship, the sacrament of Eucharist was celebrated regularly and privately remembering all of you. I am happy that all of you were faithful to celebrate mass virtually.

As the restrictive orders in our province extended to January 8th, we are unable to celebrate the Birth of Jesus as a community. The efforts were made to call and register different masses with the positive hope of coming together; unfortunately, that can no longer happen.

Silent night, Holy night – the traditional Christmas song comes true with the situation all around. This Christmas is going to be silent in celebration, but as always holy, so I encourage you to follow mass through live streaming done in various places or on TV.

Know that I pray for you, your family members, and your intentions. Thank you for lifting us in prayer as well. Thank you for your love and support which I received all through the year, and for the Christmas gifts and greetings I have received. May you have the grace to find happiness and joy this Christmas and throughout the New Year... and may we meet each day in our prayers!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy 2021.

In joyful hope,

Father Jaison Tellis, OCD