



My Dear Parishioners,

Greetings Everyone! Praised be Jesus Christ and Happy New Year 2021!! Still in this Sacred Season full of lights, hope, angels and décor, we welcome on this Epiphany Weekend the Magi to the Christmas scene as the Christmas Miracle continues to unfold.

In this context and as we enter this first full week of the New Year, I'd like to say a word about miracles. **What do you think -- how do you think -- of miracles? Do you believe in them?** These may sound like strange questions but I think they are important for us especially as we live in such skeptical times; times when people are looking for Hope. St. Francis prayed that he be a Christian of **Right faith, Certain Hope and Perfect Love**. And Church Teaching on miracles can assist that so 3 points on Miracles:

1. Catholic Christianity absolutely professes faith in miracles. We do so because miracles are found throughout the Scripture. Jesus, Himself, worked them and even before Jesus in the Old Testament, we find them. What's more even in the early Church and today, there are miracles as the Life of God continues in and with His People, the Church.
2. What is a miracle? According to the Catholic Church, a miracle is **an extraordinary sensible effect wrought by God that surpasses the power and order of created nature**. This is a very precise definition. Note the following: 1) Miracles are exclusively attributable to God. 2) Beyond the power or order of created nature. 3) Something sensible, i.e. able to be perceived. There are three categories of miracles: Physical, Moral (conversion stories involving virtue) and Intellectual (receiving knowledge from God).
3. Christian Faith rests upon the two greatest miracles are the **INCARNATION and RESURRECTION of Jesus Christ**.

What is the Miracle of the Incarnation? Well, that is what we are now celebrating and which continues forever. The fact that God become man; That the 2nd Person of the Holy Trinity, Jesus, conceived in the womb of Mary by the Holy Spirit; That Divine and Human Nature are now united in the one person of Jesus Christ. That is the miracle of the Incarnation. What a miracle that is! It's so miraculous that the early Church referred to it as a Scandal. A Happy and Blessed Scandal that God would love us so much.

My friends, as Christmas continues, let us continue to marvel, wonder and praise God for the Miracle of Christmas. It's certainly not a fairy tale...It is the Event that has turned the world upside down. ALLELUIA!!

Peace,

Fr. Rogers