

John de Britto English Center

WISHES YOU A

Grace-filled Christmas

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS ISSUE

St. Ignatius Catholic Church English Bulletin
December 2025

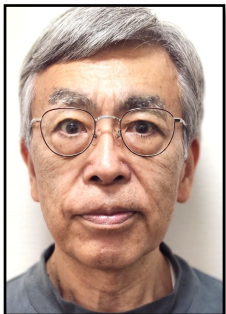


CHRISTMAS MESSAGES AND GREETINGS



Fr. Toshiaki Koso, SJ
Pastor

Joy, Peace, and Hope Bursting Forth into the World
"Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people." The Savior, Jesus, was born, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Just like Him, we humans are born into this world and embark upon the journey of life. The manger symbolizes our home, the Earth, the world we inhabit. The swaddled infant, after fulfilling His mission upon the cross as an adult, is wrapped in linen. Leaving the cloth behind in the tomb, new life emerges in the world, bringing with it great joy, peace, and hope.



Yasunori Suzuki
President, Parish Council

Mary said, *"...be it done unto me according to thy word"* (Luke 1:38). What might have happened if she had not accepted the words of the angel Gabriel? And what about Joseph, who *"resolved in his mind to put her away quietly"* (Matthew 1:19)? If he had truly severed ties with Mary, what kind of world would we be living in today?

If that were the case, we would never have welcomed the infant Jesus, born in a stable, nor would we have witnessed Mary and Joseph caring for him. I cannot imagine a world where we do not find comfort in seeing these three figures.

Reflecting on this, we feel compelled not only to say, "Savior Jesus, thank you for being born," but also, "Mary, thank you so much for accepting him. Joseph, what a steadfast man you are for making such a significant and vital decision."

This event on this holy night is truly wonderful. We cannot help but praise God.



Jessie Buendia, NdV
Coordinator

We give thanks to God for the grace-filled journey of this Jubilee Year! May this sacred time have led us to a life full of hope and strengthened faith in God.

As we welcome the birth of Jesus, may His light guide our paths to share His love across all cultures and languages, so that, as brothers and sisters, we continue to bring hope to one another and spread joy and peace in our community.

A Blessed Christmas and a Joyful New Year to everyone!

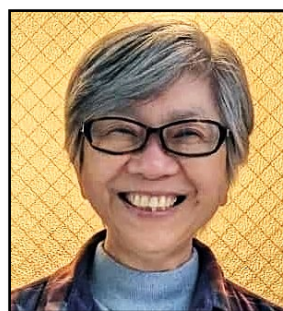


Fr. Bony James, SJ
Director
John de Britto English Center

Merry Christmas, everyone!

This year's Christmas celebration will take place during the Holy Year, commemorating 2025 years since the birth of Christ. This anniversary marks 2025 years since the angel Gabriel announced the greatest hope for humanity with the words: *"Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord"* (Luke 2:10-11).

The Catholic Church has declared a Holy Year celebration, which began on Christmas Eve 2024 and concludes with the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, 2026. The theme of this Holy Year is "Pilgrims of Hope." I pray that, amidst the anxieties of war and other challenges, we reaffirm that the birth of Jesus, the Son of God, is our greatest hope.



Sr. Flor Florece, FI,
Coordinator

"And He dwelt among us!" (John 1:14). In a world filled with fake news, negativity, dehumanization, and ecological challenges, we find great comfort in the truth that Jesus came to us as "Emmanuel", God with us! He was born two thousand years ago and continues to be present to us today, in the Blessed Sacrament. He guides us through the Word of God, nourishes us in the Eucharist, and offers healing in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. His presence, compassion, and love are reflected in every act of goodness we share. This is the reason we celebrate Christmas, and it gives us hope for the new year ahead.

Wishing you a grace-filled Christmas season and a Christ-centered 2026!



**JESUS is the REASON
for the Season.**

A TIMELESS CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

CHRISTMAS – AND STANDING ON ONE’S HEAD

by Horacio de la Costa, S.J.

Christmas is when we celebrate the unexpected – it is the festival of surprise.

This is the night when shepherds wake to the song of angels; when the earth has a star for a satellite; when wise men go on a fool’s errand, bringing gifts to a Prince they have not seen in a country they do not know.

Night of all nights

This is the night when one small donkey bears on his back the weight of the world’s desire, and an ox plays host to the Lord of heaven. This is the night we are told to seek our king not in a palace but a stable; and although we have stood here, year after year, as our fathers before us, the wonder has not faded nor will it ever fade; the wonder of that moment when we push open the little door, and enter, and entering find in the arms of a Mother who is a Virgin, a Baby who is God.



The homeless God

G.K. Chesterton has said it all for all of us: the only way to view Christmas properly is to stand on one’s head. Was there ever a house more topsy-turvy than the House of Christmas, the Cave where Christ was born? For here, suddenly in the very heart of earth, is heaven; down is up and up is down; the angels and the stars look down on the God who made them, and God looks up at the things He made. There is no room in an inn for Him who made room, and to spare, for the Milky Way! And where God is homeless, all men are at home.

Gifts we don’t expect

We were promised a Saviour, but we never dreamed that God himself would come to save us. We knew that He loved us, but we never dared to think that He loved us so much as to become like us. But that is the way God gives. His gifts are never quite what we expect but always something better, something far better than we hope for. We can only dream of things too good to be true; God has a habit of giving things too good to be false.

What we need

That is why our Christian faith is the faith in the unexpected, a religion of surprise. Now more than ever, living in times so troubled, facing a future so uncertain, we need such faith. We need it for ourselves, and we need it to give to others. We must remind the world that if Christmas comes in the dead of winter, it is that there may be an Easter in the spring.



Horacio Villamayor de la Costa, SJ (1916 – 1977) was a Filipino Jesuit priest, historian and academic. He was the first Filipino Provincial Superior of the Society of Jesus in the Philippines, and a recognized authority in Philippine and Asian culture and history.

The text above was from a homily he delivered in the mid-1950s at the old Ateneo de Manila College of Law chapel. This reflection, popularly known as “Too Good to be False,” possesses a timeless relevance and continues to inspire Christians with its insights into this Feast of feasts.



Greetings from the JdBEC Ministries and Groups



SAINT IGNATIUS SUNDAY SCHOOL CATECHISTS



ANGELS' GROUP



ENGLISH CHOIR (B)



USHERS GROUP



ALTAR SERVERS



JAPANESE USHERS GROUP



JOHN DE BRITTO ENGLISH CENTER MEDIA TEAM



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION



SAINT IGNATIUS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH MINISTRY (SIYM)



JdBEC OFFICE STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS



FAITH FORMATION GROUP



ENGLISH CHOIR



SUNDAY READINGS FAITH SHARING GROUP



PRAISE AND WORSHIP GROUP



LECTORS/COMMENTATORS GROUP





Christmas Greetings from the Family of Saint Ignatius Church

WESOŁYCH ŚWIAT BOŻEGO WARODZENIA



„GDY SIĘ CHRYSZTUS RODZI I NA ŚWIAT PRZYCHODZI,
CIEMNA NOC W JASNOŚCI PROMIENISTEJ BRODZI.
ANIOŁOWIE SIĘ RADUJĄ, POD NIEBOSY WYŚPIEUJĄ:
GLORIA, GLORIA, GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO”.

POLISH GROUP



MERRY CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR

“Kính chúc quý ông bà và
anh chị em: Một mùa Giáng
Sinh tràn đầy ân sủng và
một Năm Mới vạn an.”

Cha Joseph Nhà SJ
TT An Việt mến chúc!

VIETNAMESE GROUP

And He dwelt among us!
(John 1:14)

A grace-filled Christmas
from John de Britto English Center



O Grupo de Língua Portuguesa deseja a todos um Feliz Natal,
cheio de alegria, paz e das bênçãos do Menino Jesus



ポルトガル語グループは、みなさんにイエス様の祝福と、喜びと平和にあふれる
クリスマスをお祈りしています。

PORTUGUESE GROUP



¡ FELIZ NAVIDAD Y
AÑO NUEVO 2026!

Que el Niño Jesús traiga a su corazón
y a sus hogares su paz y amor, y que
la Virgen María los acompañe cada día
en este año que comienza.

Les deseamos de todo corazón:

El Centro Loyola y la
Comunidad Hispanohablante

SPANISH-SPEAKING GROUP



JAPANESE GROUP



Selamat
Natal 2025 dan Tahun Baru 2026

Damai di bumi, damai di hati.
Semoga kehangatan Natal dan Tahun Baru
membawa kebahagiaan sejati.

Keluarga Katolik Indonesia Tokyo

INDONESIAN GROUP