

JOY TO THE WORLD

Boy, don't we need Joy in the world today. There's a lot of glitz and glamour flooding the television screens now, ramping us up for Christmas. I can't wait to see how happy I'm going to be tearing open all my presents under Christmas tree; hearing "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas" for the umpteenth time and waiting for the happy feller, Santa Claus, to tumble down my chimney on to my fake fireplace. I always marvel at how he stays so clean. And then, of course, mamma gets to kiss Santa Clause—that would be me!

But, the most fun will be Christmas Eve, when I join the Knight's Choir to sing at 4:00pm Mass at St. Thomas More. We always sing Christmas Carols for the congregation, with everyone joining us for a big shout out for Christmas. I hope we don't sing "I'm dreaming of a White Christmas." Then the real Joy in my heart, the Baby Jesus is placed in the manger. What a wonderful feeling to know that the Prince of princes, the King of kings comes to us again as a newborn baby on Christmas. How much Joy did He bring to Mary and Joseph even as He is wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger? As a parent, I know they were overwhelmed with Joy and happiness at that moment, a Joy that has lasted for all of us unto this day.

So this Christmas, set aside mayhem of gift giving, the demand for yet one more helping of turkey and mashed potatoes, the drenching sounds of "Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer," and allow yourself to experience the Joy of the baby Jesus. He is ever-present within us, just waiting for a calm moment to share His priceless gift of Joy. Have a Joyful Christmas and a Merry New Year!--*Bruce Tawson, State PR.*