

## A PASTORAL MESSAGE FROM FATHER PETER

### CHRISTMAS 2013

Within a few days the calendar of all Christian Churches and the tradition of the most cultures will call us to once again celebrate the most beautiful season of the year.... Christmas.

What is Christmas! Christmas is the day of LOVE. God loved the world. His great love for the world could not be expressed except in the bestowal of a great gift. That was the gift of his own; His only begotten Son. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son."

Christmas is the day of JOY. The angels in the field of Ephrata made the announcement: "I bring you good tidings of great joy." Those tidings of great joy were transmitted by the shepherds to others. They have transmitted throughout the ages. They are even now being transmitted by men and women of good will to the farthest corners to the earth. And wherever these tidings are brought sadness and sorrow disappear.

Christmas is the day of FAITH. God's great gift is for men and women who believe. Those who believe know that they shall not perish. Theirs is the gift of eternal life.

Christmas is the day of LIGHT. When sin caused the whole world to be plunged

in darkness, a promise was given that darkness would disappear and light would come. When He did come those "who walked in darkness saw a great light."

And Christmas is the day of PEACE. Can there be and is there peace in this sad and war - cursed world? Yes, there is peace. There is true peace. It is the peace with God and peace of God. It dwells in the hearts of those He came to save. It is the peace which the

troubles and worries of today cannot remove.

It is "sweet peace, the gift of God's love."

And thus on Christmas Day we join with in the heavenly chorus and we sing: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among men in whom He is well pleased."

May the real light of Christmas shine brightly in your heart and mind and show you the way to faith, joy and peace, now and throughout the coming New Year.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE !**

Fr. Peter

Tuesday, December 24  
Christmas service 6:00 p.m.

