



# *Behold!* *... the Lamb of God*

## **CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART**

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### ***Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,***

And so it is Christmas ... again. How many times around is this for you? Many of us would probably include the count with the number of years of our life. I'm not sure, however, just how accurate that might be. How we are and have been present to the gift of Christmas is, I suspect, the better determination. Faithful and non-believer alike experience Christmas, be it in faith or frenzy, in the giving and receiving. This annual event may repeat through waves of celebrations with family, friends, coworkers and fellow students. The experience may be captured in the memories of a child's innocent wonder and awe, a beloved's desire to offer the perfect gift, the scent of the first fresh-cut tree standing in the living room, the Nativity set in place at the bedside of an ailing parent or neighbor, the rush and noise of crowded business Christmas parties, or the silent hush of a quiet house the first Christmas alone.

The true gift is timeless and unchanging, though Christmas itself arrives in many forms, wrapped differently each time around. With the passing years it is we who also change. The Christ Child remains the same, ever inviting us to see and believe, to receive and share in kind, to know that we are loved and in that knowledge to trust enough to love one another. In the tragedy and darkness of this world, it is Truth and Light that God reveals to us in the Word made Flesh dwelling among us. With the eyes of Faith, may we clearly see the goodness that our God sees in us. May we be ready and willing to welcome Jesus who knocks at the door of our hearts and minds and invites us to make room for someone who is searching for the gift of Christmas this time around. Know that you are blessed.

Join us as family as we gather to joyfully celebrate the Eucharist at the Table of the Lord this Christmas. There are many prayerful opportunities before and after the Nativity of the Lord. You are never alone in God's house and there are never too many. There is always room and a place for you at the Table. Please find the enclosed schedule, visit our parish website, and join your voice in prayer and praise with family and friends at your side and in your heart.

With the prayers and best wishes of our Sacred Heart Parish Staff, I am devotedly yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fr. John". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. John P. Alvarado, pastor