

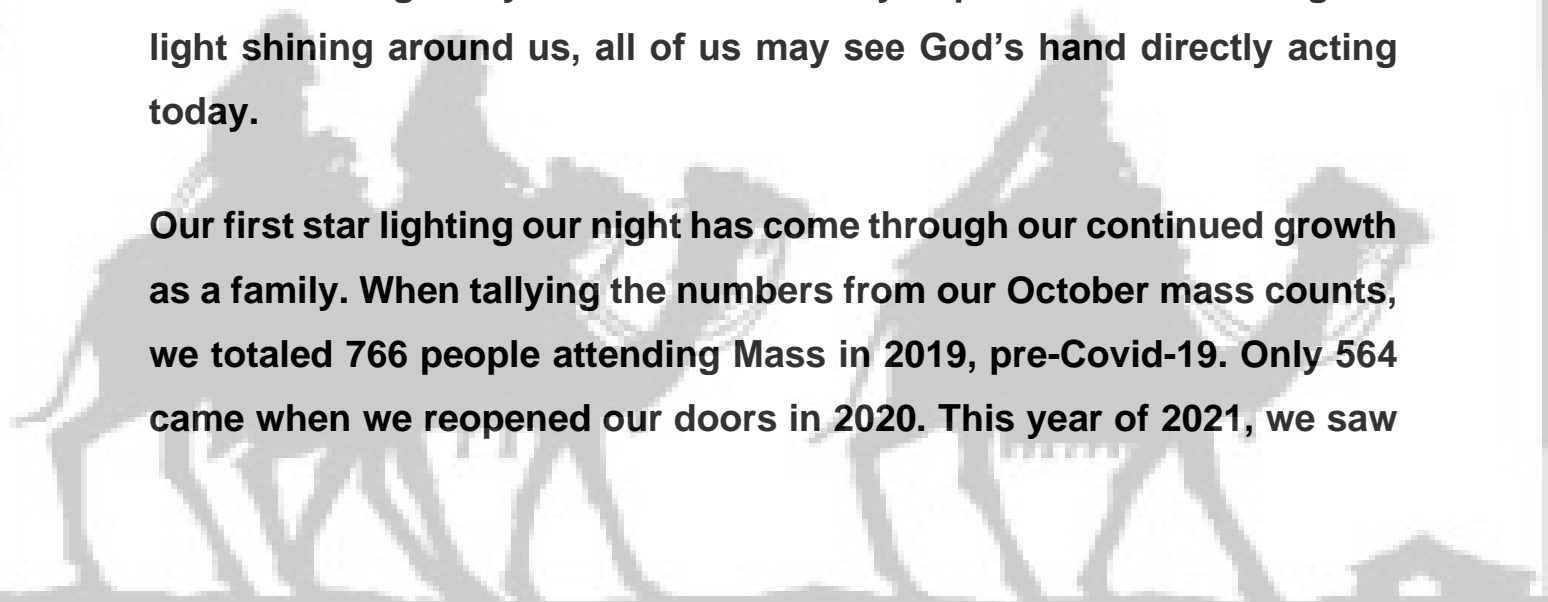
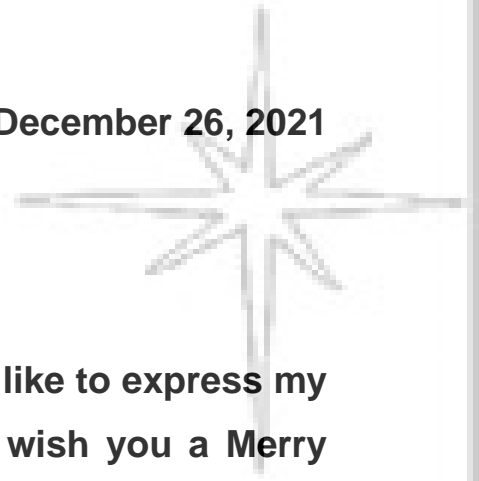
December 26, 2021

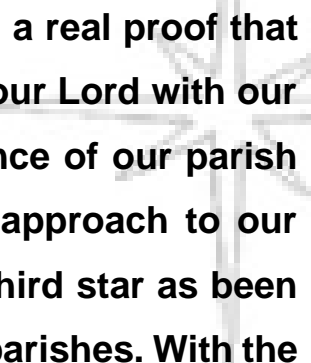
My Dear Parish Family of:
St. Bridget
St. Thomas the Apostle

As we conclude this year of our Lord, 2021, I would like to express my love and affection for each one of you and again wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2022.

I confess that as 2020 came to an end, I looked forward to 2021 hoping we would return to a sense of normality. With the rise of new variants of Covid-19, rising inflation, and a supply chain more and more lacking of household items and food stuffs, one could easily find themselves becoming depressed and/or questioning (maybe doubting) God's guiding presence. Coupled with these wants, we are still suffering with the loss of parishioners who have yet to return to worshipping with our family. A friend, trying to offer a positive take upon our times, reminded me of the old saying: "Tis always darkest before the dawn." Tongue and cheek I responded: "No, it is always darkest when it is dark. When there is nothing to provide light." Therefore, allow me to provide a few stars in the night sky of our times. It is my hope that after realizing the light shining around us, all of us may see God's hand directly acting today.

Our first star lighting our night has come through our continued growth as a family. When tallying the numbers from our October mass counts, we totaled 766 people attending Mass in 2019, pre-Covid-19. Only 564 came when we reopened our doors in 2020. This year of 2021, we saw





that number rise to 842. These numbers provided are a real proof that more people have begun to or continued to worship our Lord with our parish family. The second star has been the assistance of our parish office staff. Their new ideas have provided a fresh approach to our parish bulletins, website, and fundraising efforts. A third star as been the continuation of the Traditional Latin Mass for our parishes. With the recent decision of our Archbishop, this beautiful expression of our Catholic faith will continue at St. Bridget. Another star was our Eucharistic mission coupled with the study reflections during this Year of the Eucharist and Parish. I commend Deacon Groves on his outstanding work assisting me with these reflections. The final star, and the one that has shone most bright, has been you, our family. Your willingness to continue attending despite virus fears, your generosity volunteering your time to assist the poor (St. Vincent de Paul), the education of our parish children (CCD class teachers and volunteers), and the support of the Knights of Columbus, Ladies Auxiliary, Men of St. Joseph, and Daughters of Mary have helped our family in countless and varied ways.

Yes, for many the night is dark, but for our family the night is as bright as the day. Thank you for everything you do, the prayers you have offered, and for just being part of the family.

Rev. William P. Saucier

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