## **Christmas Message**

It was a typical Thursday afternoon, my regular slot for discussing school preferences or recommendations for our students. I found myself in an interview with a mother and her daughter, exploring the possibility of her daughter joining St. Ignatius College next year. Midway through our conversation, the daughter posed an unexpected question, "Where is Jesus?" Initially, I explained that Jesus is technically in heaven but also resides within our hearts. However, the mother clarified that she was referring to the absence of baby Jesus from the nativity set. I reassured her that tradition involves placing the baby Jesus in the crib during the Christmas Evening Mass.

My dear friends, the question "Where is Jesus?" holds profound significance during this joyful Christmas season. Where do we locate Jesus in our society, community, family, and our daily lives? Do we confine our remembrance of Jesus solely to his birthday? Or do we recognize His presence only in times of adversity? Let us awaken to the truth that Jesus is continually present in our existence. Throughout history, throughout our brief lifetimes, Jesus has been an ever-present part of our lives.

This Christmas, let's deeply reflect on the presence of Jesus as a newborn in the nativity scene.

Let's cherish and acknowledge His significance in our lives. As we approach the dawn of the new year 2024, I stand humbly before the birthplace of our Lord (the Christmas crib) and fervently wish for this parish to remain grounded in the reality that Jesus is forever present among us. Regardless of who leads as the priest, the size of our church, or the challenges faced by our parishioners—Jesus remains steadfast by our side.



With warm wishes for a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

## Fr. Nathaniel Brazil

Parish Administrator June 2023 - Feb 2024