

Christmas Homily 2018

Christmas the TIME for Joyful Song!

4:30pm Mass Homily Story: "Twas the evening of Christmas"

The Gift: "Thanks for the electric guitar you gave me for Christmas," little Chris said to his uncle the first time he saw him after the holidays. "It's the best present I ever got!"

"That's great," said his uncle. "Do you know how to play it?"

"Oh, I don't play it," the fellow said. "My Mom gives me a dollar a day not to play it during the day and my Dad gives me \$25 a week not to play it at night!"

Silent Night 200th Anniversary Fr. Joseph Mohr wrote the lyrics in 1816 and then in 1818 gave them to Franz Gruber in Obendorf, Austria to put to music and used that evening at the Midnight Mass for the very first time.

Sing the first verse of Silent Night

Christmas the TIME for Joyful Song!

Advent a time of listening to more music to prepare well for the coming of the Christ Child with the listening of every word it's meaning.

Words are powerful. They lift us and tear down, affirm and challenge, tell truth and falsehood. Thus, how we use words is important.

Christmas celebrates Jesus, God's Word become flesh, pitching his tent among us. In Christ, God knocks on the door of our hearts to bring the news that we are not alone. The very life of God, called grace, is offered to us. What a gift! Those who accept his words, who choose to live in the light of his truth, see the face of God. No wonder that celebrating Christmas can make our hearts jump with joy and hope. But not all feel joyful at Christmas. There is still reason to hope. Jesus, the Word, comes to comfort us, announce peace, and share a light that no darkness can destroy, not even

death. That's why the feet of one who brings God's glad tidings are beautiful.

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, pitched his tent.” God's Word knocks on our doors, continuing to become flesh in us. Will we testify to that light, like John? Use your words wisely to give Jesus flesh today by living God's love generously through a smile, a welcomed touch, the gift of time, a phone call. Be attentive so that we shine light on the darkness, hope, fear, or despair that can challenge us or bring us down.

O God, you have made your saving love known by becoming one with us through your Son, Jesus Christ. Open our eyes to see his face. Open our mouths to proclaim your word. Open our hearts to find you dwelling here, in our midst. Help us show others our gratitude for your great gift to us, Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas!