

# *Christmas Blessings*



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

On the first Christmas, God gave us the most important gift of all. Through His only son, God the Father gave eternal light to humanity. That light fills us with hope and guides each of us on the lifelong journey to holiness.

Each of you were created in the likeness of God. You radiate His love in your daily lives when you recognize the face of Christ in those around you, especially those who are most in need. We are all called to build up the Kingdom of God here on Earth. The selfless love you show to fellow parishioners, neighbors, family, and friends is linked to the good deeds of others and forms the building blocks of that kingdom. As Pope Francis said, “The Church must be a place of mercy freely given, where everyone can feel welcomed, loved, forgiven and encouraged to live the good life of the Gospel.”

During this joyful season, may God’s love flow through you and inspire you to encounter one another with tenderness and mercy. Know that you and your families are in our thoughts and prayers.

In the name of the clergy, religious, and lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, we ask that God may bless you with a Merry Christmas as well as a Happy and Holy New Year!

*+ Nelson Pérez*

Archbishop of Philadelphia

*Timothy C. Senior*

Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

*+ Michael Fitzgibbon*

Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

*+ John M. Sotya*

Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia

*+ Edward M. Delmonico*

Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia



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