

NEW YEAR MESSAGE: YEAR 2023

Dear Saint Eugene Parishioners,

“...*the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*” (John 1:5)

A few weeks ago, I received a Christmas card that had a beautiful silhouette of the newborn Jesus along with Mary and Joseph in the manger and the bible verse above inscribed by the star. For some reason, this verse resonated with me and has stayed with me for the better part of a week.

Yes, we have come to the end of a joggling year, BUT the light of Christ still shines amidst the darkness of this world, and the darkness has not overcome this light. This is the cause of our joy as we get ready to celebrate Christmas. We must learn to trust the Lord, to trust in his divine will for us, to see His hand at work in our lives especially in times of trial. Mary and Joseph had to trust God completely when they had to make the long trek to Bethlehem and then again when they had to flee into Egypt. We ask Mary and Joseph to help us trust God as they trusted him.

May we be a people of faith and joy that rejoices in the light and hope that Christmas brings. This light truly does shine in a world full of darkness, and this light must penetrate our hearts. We are called to be the light of Jesus to the world, so that one person at a time, one soul at a time, we can start bringing that light to a world that so desperately needs it.

As we usher into the new year, it is good to think and look ahead what are those things we need to implement in your life, those things we need to change and those we need to forget. The New Year is the opening chapter to a book that is full of success. While we may face hardship, focus on the positive outcomes. This New Year believe in yourself and all you can accomplish. Success is sure to come your way. For good things come to those who wait. Just so, when you feel like giving up, victory is within reach. Keep this in mind during this 2023.

Let our new year's resolution be: to be there for our families and friends, for those in need and for those who mourn, for those suffer and for those who rejoice. Let us help and serve one another as true Christians and members of Saint Eugene. And leave the pain and misfortune in the past... let us focus on what we can accomplish and what makes us happy. As the greatest scientist, Albert Einstein said, “*Learn from yesterday, live for today, and hope for tomorrow.*”

On behalf of deacons Anthony and John and pastoral staff, I pray that you and your family have a **Blessed Christmas and a grace filled New Year 2023**. May Mary, the Mother of the Child Jesus and our Mother, watch over us and our beloved St. Eugene Parish always. You will all be remembered in our Christmas Masses.

May this prayer to St. Joseph help us this **NEW YEAR 2023**:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too,
Show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

With love,
Father Archie M. Tacay, CICM

