

WORD FROM THE PASTOR

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THIS SEASON



My brothers and sisters, Christmas is speedily approaching. Our towns and villages, communities, and churches have taken on a festive air. Everywhere, people are preparing to celebrate. Every year, men and women of goodwill organize themselves so that the joy of Christmas can be shared with everyone. The problem is that every year, we forget more and more the true meaning of Christmas. **We no longer think of the One who should be at the center of this celebration.** On this 4th Sunday of Advent, the liturgy offers us two accounts of the Annunciation; first, we have the one from the first Reading: we are in the 4th century BC; the situation of the people of Israel is truly dramatic: they are threatened from all sides by foreign armies. Faced with this danger, the young king of Israel did not make the right choice. He abandoned the true God to turn to pagan gods and seek their favor. This is also true for us today. We think of these gods that occupy a large place in our lives and our world: they are called **MONEY, WEALTH, THE PURSUIT OF PROFIT, AND A GOOD SOCIAL POSITION.**

In this Advent season, we are invited to rediscover the true meaning of Christmas. It is not about chasing after ever more consumption but about welcoming the One who comes to save us. **The Gospels do not report any words from Joseph. But they testify to his constant presence and his total faithfulness, even when he does not understand.** He accompanies every moment with thoughtfulness and Love. He is with Mary in serene moments and in difficult moments. Joseph is therefore the guardian of Mary, of Jesus, and of the entire Church. All of this became possible only thanks to his constant attention to God: he is open to His signs and available to His plan. **Joseph is the guardian because he knows how to listen to God, he allows himself to be guided by His will, he is attentive to what surrounds him; he knows how to make the wisest decisions. Like him, we are all called to keep Christ in our lives.** We can only experience a true Christmas if we welcome Mary, our Mother and Joseph, we learn to become servants of a plan that surpasses us. Like them, the Lord leads us along paths we had not foreseen. But the words He speaks to us are those of eternal life.

This Advent season is given to us so that we may set out on the journey toward the One who never ceases to come to us. Many do not know and do not want to hear about the true meaning of Christmas, about Jesus, about Mary, about the Nativity scene. But the message of **the Gospel must be proclaimed throughout the world.** Our mission is not to force belief but to speak and to bear witness. **The Lord assures us that the Holy Spirit is at work in the hearts of those He places in our path.** By celebrating this Eucharist, we turn to the One who comes to us. At every Mass, He joins the communities gathered in His name. **He is "Emmanuel," God with us.**

Merry Christmas, Happy and Blessed New Year 2026

Very Rev. Fr. Lucien Eugene Pierre Ph.D., Pastor, VF

Dean of Northwest Broward Deanery of the Archdiocese Miami – December 21, 2025
