

Chaplain's Column

Brother Knights and Families,

Because of the pandemic, I am not sure that stores began putting out their Christmas decorations as early as other years. Sometimes you would see the artificial trees, ornaments, and many other Christmas related items being sold in August already. Shortly after you would hear Christmas music on the radio and on TV. People would start their shopping for Grandma and Grandpa, and their entire family. I have heard people say, "I bought a gift for Grandma back in August, and now I do not know where I put it". Plans are being made for holiday celebrations at work, with family and whomever you may celebrate the holidays with. We can't forget to start our Christmas baking. "How many dozens of cookies should I make this year. Oh! Don't forget about picking out just the right cards to send. I could site many other traditions that families follow. BUT! "Is this the true meaning of Christmas"?

Every Christmas and Easter Homily I point to the crucifix up at the altar. I remind people that it is because Jesus suffered and died for each and every one of us is the reason we can celebrate Christmas. People seem to forget this. There is no historical record not even a well-founded tradition which gives the date of the birth of Christ. The date of December 25th was established about the year 320, and the Popes seem to have chosen the twenty-fifth day of December principally to divert the attention of the people from the celebration of a pagan feast "Birthday of the Unconquered Sun". Yes, we can have the celebrations, but Let us not Forget the REASON for the SEASON and the Most Precious Gift of Christmas

Have a Blessed Christmas. I will remember all of you and your family in my Masses.

Fr. Dick