

**God said: "I Am Love. I Am Forever!"**

***Our Mission on earth begins with the Silent Light of the Holy Spirit poured into our hearts by God (Rom 5:5)***

Back in 2011, I went to see a parishioner who had been in the hospital before Thanksgiving and now was in a rehab facility. He was married to his wife of 60 some years, and they had a beautiful, loving relationship until he refused to talk. He wanted to go home; and so, he wasn't cooperating with the staff, his wife or anyone. His wife asked me to come and see him, to pray for him, and try to reason with him.

During the visit, it seemed I was talking to myself and to his wife instead of him. He was distant. She really thought that I could break through, but it wasn't working. However, before I left, I asked him what his favorite Christmas song was for it was the month of December. He did not respond, but his wife spoke for him: ***Silent Night***.

So I began to sing ***Silent Night***; and in the middle of the song, he began to sing! His wife began to cry! The miracle was taking place! He was responding!

Through the years, I have been prompted to sing that song at Christmas for those who were dying. Then I was led to sing ***Silent Night*** many times throughout the year. Sometimes I even include it at the end of my funeral homilies. Why? ***Silent Night*** is a heartbeat away from our birth into the Kingdom of the Father.

God's heartbeat stands outside of time. It is eternal. But when God created *time*, His heartbeat became the *tick tock* of the clock, encompassing every moment of *time*. But it does not stop there. When the ***Word became Flesh to dwell among us***, the eternal heartbeat became one with a human heartbeat! Jesus came to sanctify every moment in time through the heartbeat of love.

The ordinary scene in a stable becomes an extraordinary scene of wedded love! Heaven and earth become one! Emmanuel invites us to become one *with Him, through Him and in Him*. Love becomes flesh to live among us that life lived in the flesh becomes love through us.

***“Through the mystery of this water and wine, may we come to share in the Divinity of Christ who humbled Himself to share in our humanity.”*** These are words of the priest said over the chalice before blessing the wine. We are the gifts of bread and wine brought to the altar to be consecrated ***through Him, with Him and in Him.***

At Mass, the ***Silent Night*** of His birth in the wood of the manger finds its completion on the wood of the Cross at the Consecration of the bread and wine. As the ***Word Willed*** to become Jesus Incarnate on earth; so too, the ***Risen Lord Wills*** to continue to become Incarnate on earth in the bread and wine. They become a living reality (as Jesus told St. Faustina in the 1930s).

The risen Lord takes over the bread and wine completely because they have ***no will*** of their own. Then the nourishment of ***Love Incarnate*** can become food for our flesh and our blood! But for our own personal transubstantiation to take place, we must surrender our ***will*** to ***His Will***. This becomes an ongoing movement of our hearts being absorbed into His Heart. (What God is by ***Nature***, we become by ***grace***). As Jesus was born into this life, our journey is to be born into the next life ***through Him, with Him and in Him*** which becomes eternal life.

***Silent Night, Holy Night***

***All is calm, all is bright.***

***Round yon Virgin, Mother and child,***

***Holy Infant, so tender and mild.***

***Sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.***

Did you ever wonder why we do not see Jesus in the arms of His Mother? We always see Him lying in the manger? It is the beginnings of the Cross that He would carry for love of us. And where is love manifested the most—in the arms or in the heart? Jesus found comfort in His Mother’s heart, which was His constant source of strength to carry the Cross. Jesus-as-God came to fulfill the Father’s Will; but as a human being, Jesus’ heart was one with His Mother’s heart, which beat in unison until His last breath on the Cross. The stronghold of Satan was defeated by the power of their (human) love!

We, too, are invited to enter into the heart of Mary. At Fatima, God requested that we acquire a relationship with Her Immaculate Heart. Why? The stronghold of Satan cannot ever enter into that **Garden of Eden** found in the heart of Mary. She is the **Woman of Genesis 3:15** who is destined to crush the head of the evil one. As the Father gave His Son a Woman's love to be His Mother; so too, we are given that same Woman's love to be our Mother from the foot of the Cross. This is Mary's moment as the **Woman Clothed with the Sun** to be exalted in the Church **through us, with us and in us!**

Love is the heartbeat of life, and life is the heartbeat of love lived in all of our thoughts, words and actions. May you experience a new birth of love and peace, embracing holiness in the messiness of life as Jesus gave us the example. He rested in the heart of His Mother. May you find rest—not only in Jesus' Heart—but in Mother Mary's Heart.

**Silent Night** is not just a Christmas song. **Silent Night** is our victory song, leading us to the kingdom of eternal life! Emmanuel dwells in the **Silent Light** of our hearts!

God Bless....Father David

As Thanksgiving approaches give thanks to God for all the blessings in your life and remember to share those blessings with others!

As Advent quickly approaches find time to rest in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary for They long to be with you! Remember, **the Silent Light of God—the Holy Spirit—dwells in the depths of your heart!** How blessed we are to be loved by such a great and awesome Father! We are **His beloved children** that have been given everything we need for our salvation! Thank-you!!!

Please see the other side for information about confession times, the rosary and Benediction offered during the Advent Season.

### **Mondays:**

Nov. 28; Dec. 5; Dec. 19

Confessions at 5:30-6:40 pm in **Bemus Point**

Rosary & Benediction at 7:00 pm

### **Tuesdays:**

Nov. 29; Dec. 6; Dec. 20

Confessions at 5:30-6:40 pm in **Mayville**

Rosary & Benediction at 7:00 pm

### **Wednesdays:**

Nov. 30; Dec. 14; Dec. 21

Confessions at 5:30-6:40 pm in **Westfield**

Rosary & Benediction at 7:00 pm

### **Thursdays:**

Dec. 1; Dec. 15; Dec. 22

Confessions at 5:30-6:40 pm in **Brocton**

Rosary & Benediction at 7:00 pm

### **Advent Penance Service**

Sunday, Dec. 11 at 4 pm in Bemus Point

Area priests will be joining us

### **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**

**Vigil (Dec. 7):** 4 pm in Westfield & 6 pm in Bemus Point

**Feast (Dec. 8):** 5:15 pm in Mayville & 7 pm in Brocton

**National Night of Prayer from 8 pm-11 pm in Brocton**