



# ARCHDIOCESE of BALTIMORE

*a message from Archbishop Lori*

December 8, 2017

Dear Friend in Christ,

There is a popular expression often heard this time of year urging people to “Keep Christ in Christmas,” a not-so-subtle reminder to focus on the true meaning of the holiday as we are rushing around trying to complete a seemingly endless to-do list in the run-up to the Big Day. The Archdiocese has taken a similar page from this familiar slogan in its annual Christmas radio [ad campaign](#) inviting people to “Make time for Mass” this Christmas.

While it may, at times, seem difficult to add even one more thing to our schedules this month, when we take time to pray--either alone, with our family, or during Mass, we experience a kind of spiritual “rejuvenation” that helps us to remain focused on Jesus’ birth and strengthens us with the closeness to Christ that comes from prayer. Whether you attend Mass regularly, a few times a year or not at all, please consider attending Mass at a [parish](#) near you this Christmas.



*Coats for Kids, 2017*

Another way we can keep Jesus at the center of our Christmas celebration is by bringing hope into the lives of those less fortunate. I was grateful once again to participate in the Knights of Columbus’ annual Coats for Kids campaign earlier this month. I helped my brother Knights hand out 1,100 warm winter coats to needy children in West Baltimore. The joy on the faces of the children was greater than any gift I could receive and reminded me how blessed we are when we share the gift of God’s love with those around us. Whether [volunteering](#) at a Catholic Charities program or [making a donation](#) to one of the many programs and ministries supported by our Archdiocese, we have many ways of sharing God’s love with those in need, a true Christmas gift for those we help, but even more so for us!

With joyful anticipation of the birth of our Savior, I pray that you and your loved ones will have a blessed Advent and a very Merry Christmas.



Faithfully in Christ,

Most Reverend William E. Lori  
Archbishop of Baltimore