

# Happy New Year!

*So, we are into the second week of the New Year already. Looking back, this Christmas Season visited upon us many gifts. We have relived and celebrated the birth of our God in Christ Jesus. We have paused to honor the gift of the Holy Family and, more recently, the gift of Mary, the Mother of God, on January 1, 2017. Today, we celebrate the Epiphany of the Lord and tomorrow, we will celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. These comprise the five wonderful gifts of the Christmas Season. You see, Christmas is far more than a mere day in the life of the Church. It is the unfolding of God's eternal love for us through out the days of our lives. We tend to rush things: get the tree up, get the tree down; get the decorations out, put the decorations away; bake this, deliver that, and so on. It is not so with our God. His eternal love and concern is constant, always unfolding, always revealing, like a river that has no beginning and no end.*

*However, we have definite beginnings and endings. 2016 has ended. 2017 has begun. What do we plan to do differently this year, as opposed to what we did last year? Do we hope to repeat certain things? To avoid other things? Now is the time to sit back, to think, and to make a definite plan. It is a time for fresh beginnings. The past is the past. It cannot be re-lived, for better or worse. If there were mistakes, don't waste them--learn from them! Now, one knows what to avoid from the lessons learned. This is how wisdom and good choosing is achieved. It is from many bad choices in the past. Don't waste the lesson. Wise-up (w. wisdom).*

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*Sincerely, Fr. T.*