

## **Homily for Christmas Day: Defending Christmas in a Modern World**

### **"Merry Christmas! Wait, Did I Just Offend Someone?"**

Merry Christmas, brothers and sisters! And yes, I said *Merry Christmas*. Not “Happy Holidays,” not “Season’s Greetings.” I said Merry Christmas because that’s what we’re here to celebrate: the birth of Jesus Christ.

You’d think saying “Merry Christmas” would be the easiest thing in the world. But in today’s world, it feels like you need a lawyer on speed dial just in case someone takes offense. But let’s be honest—what’s so offensive about a celebration of love, joy, and salvation? Saying “Merry Christmas” isn’t a declaration of war; it’s an invitation to rejoice!

### **"Good News Needs a Trumpet, Not a Whisper"**

Isaiah today doesn’t whisper about God’s work. No, he shouts it from the mountains: “*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings glad tidings.*” Can you imagine Isaiah timidly saying, “Well, I don’t want to bother anyone, but God has done something nice”? Of course not! The news of salvation is too good to keep quiet.

In our world, it’s tempting to tone down our joy to keep the peace. But friends, if we don’t proclaim Christmas boldly, who will? If we let ourselves be silenced by fear or politeness, we’re letting the darkness win.

The Psalm says, “*Sing a new song to the Lord, for He has done marvelous deeds.*” It doesn’t say, “Whisper quietly to avoid offending anyone.” If a cashier tells you, “Happy Holidays,” go ahead and say, “Thank you, and Merry Christmas!” That’s not picking a fight; that’s sharing your faith.

### **"Jesus: The Reason for Every Season"**

Hebrews tells us that in these last days, God has spoken to us through His Son. Jesus isn’t just another wise teacher or a seasonal mascot. He’s the exact imprint of God’s being, the light of the world.

So when someone tries to lump Christmas in with “all the other holidays,” remind them: Christmas isn’t just one more event on the calendar. It’s *the* moment when heaven touched earth, when the Creator entered creation to redeem us. If that’s not worth celebrating loudly, I don’t know what is!

### **"The Word Became Flesh—Not a Generic Greeting"**

In the Gospel of John, we hear that “*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*” Jesus didn’t become a vague idea or a universal slogan. He became flesh—a real person, born into a specific family, at a specific time, for a specific purpose.

Christmas is about Jesus, plain and simple. The manger isn't just a cute decoration; it's a radical statement of God's love. When we say "Merry Christmas," we're not just spreading cheer; we're proclaiming that ***love came down to save us.***

### **"But Father, Isn't That a Bit Much?"**

Now, I know some of you might be thinking: "Father, does it really matter if we say Merry Christmas or Happy Holidays? Isn't it more important to live our faith than to argue about words?" Yes, living our faith is crucial. ***But words matter because they reveal what's in our hearts.***

Imagine if the shepherds had said, "Let's visit the baby, but let's not tell anyone—don't want to ruffle feathers." Or if the angels had sung, "Glory to God in the highest—but only if it's okay with you." Of course not! Christmas is a celebration meant to be shared ***boldly, joyfully, and unapologetically.***

### **"Defend Christmas by Living It"**

If we want to defend Christmas, we have to start by living it. That means letting the light of Christ shine through us in a world that desperately needs hope. It means being generous, forgiving, and kind—even when it's hard. And yes, it means showing up to Mass and making Jesus the center of our celebrations.

Defending Christmas doesn't mean arguing with every stranger who says "Happy Holidays." It means embodying the joy and love of Christ so powerfully that people can't help but see the reason for your joy.

### **"Conclusion: Merry Christmas, Loud and Clear!"**

So let's celebrate boldly! Put up your nativity scenes, sing your Christmas carols, and wish everyone a Merry Christmas with a smile. And when someone asks you why Christmas is such a big deal, don't be afraid to tell them: ***It's the birthday of our Savior, the light of the world, and the hope of all humanity.***

Merry Christmas, brothers and sisters. May the joy of Christ fill your hearts and may we never shy away from proclaiming His love to the world. Amen!