



may you be blest with
the spirit of the season
which is peace
the gladness of the season
which is hope
and the heart of the season
which is love.

Irish Christmas blessing

Our love to you this Christmas

Br Michael

Fr Peter

Holy Cross Monastery
Woodville, Texas

More than two thousand years ago, a child was born in a stable in a town on the west bank of the Jordan River. A tyrant King, threatened by the child's existence, sought to find him and have him killed. The young family, fearing for their lives, were forced to flee to another country.

This scene is still occurring today to millions of people all across our world. As many generations of people came to America, the first thing they saw was the Statue of Liberty. On its base is written:

Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

St Benedict tells us in his Rule that strangers and guests at the Monastery are to be welcomed as the face of God— because all are made in the image and likeness of God.

At Christmas we place a lighted candle in the window to show our Community welcomes all kinds of people, a custom inherited from the Irish and from our own Colonial forebears. It has been seen as a beacon of hope for any passerby during the holiday season, and signaled strangers that there would be food and shelter there, should they ask.

May we all light a candle as we celebrate God's becoming one of us. May it bring us all peace and hope and love in 2026.



Holy Cross Monastery

521 County Road 2575

Woodville, Texas 75979-2306



www.holycrossmonks.org