

December 21, 2020

Dear Family Members and Friends,

Hurrythe Lord is near! In a few days, we celebrate the feast of Christmas! During this last week of Advent, everyone is busy doing last minute shopping, decorating, Christmas card writing, gift wrapping and other preparations for this special occasion. No matter how we spend this week before Christmas, we need to take the time to slow down and prepare *our hearts* for His coming.

Here at St Augustine Home, we are blessed to have our elderly Residents who daily remind us what it truly means to wait and prepare for the birth of JESUS by the witness of their lives. Jesus came to the world that we may have life and have it more abundantly. Nothing can really stop the Residents from enjoying life to the fullest as they prepare to meet HIM face to face for all eternity ... not the infirmities and sufferings brought on by neither advanced age nor the pandemic! Their willingness and readiness to accept whatever is asked of them during this challenging time is very edifying to us. It is really from them that we draw the encouragement and strength we need to provide them a safe and COVID-free environment. Although, one of our non-direct care staff members tested positive yesterday, we are very hopeful that none of our Residents were in direct contact with this staff member. Because of this, no quarantine is needed and we can continue our plans of having a wonderful Christmas celebration within the Home.

After Christmas, we are hoping that vaccinations for COVID-19 will be available to our Residents who are interested in having them. The consent of the Residents or their health care representative is required for vaccination. Let's continue to pray that this vaccine is safe and will be the answer to the current pandemic crisis. We look forward to enjoying a "normal" life, free of current restrictions... may this be a reality soon!

We invite you to join us for our Christmas Virtual Concert, workshopped by our music therapist, Emily Mingus. This concert includes many of our Residents and staff singing, playing, and smiling along to several Christmas carols! We hope this brings you great cheer and joy as we prepare for Jesus' coming. There will be an unlisted YouTube link to view the concert coming soon via email as our final preparations conclude! Please don't miss this concert... you are in for a great surprise!

Have a blessed Christmas ... enjoy the wonders of this glorious day!

God bless all of you!

Mother Francis Gabriel and all the Little Sisters at St. Augustine Home