



DIOCESE OF FORT WORTH
THE BISHOP'S OFFICE



Pastoral Letter

**Message of the Most Reverend Michael F. Olson,
Bishop of Fort Worth
to the Faithful of the Diocese of Fort Worth
for the Celebration of Christmas**

December 25, 2023

“For the yoke that burdened them,
the pole on their shoulder,
The rod of their taskmaster,
you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.
For every boot that tramped in battle,
every cloak rolled in blood,
will be burned as fuel for fire.
For a child is born to us, a son is given to us;
upon his shoulder dominion rests.
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero,
Father-Forever, Prince of Peace.
His dominion is vast
and forever peaceful,
Upon David’s throne, and over his kingdom,
which he confirms and sustains
By judgment and justice,
both now and forever.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!”

Isaiah 9:3-6

In the Divine Infant in the Stable in Bethlehem, surrounded by Mary and Joseph, we receive the disarming peace of Emmanuel offered completely to each of us in the full and sinless humanity of the Baby Jesus.

May our celebration of Christmas convert us to Him that His peace might shine in every dark corner of our lives that hatred, discord, and war might be banished by His gift of our redeemed human nature that orders us for justice and love.

May this true and lasting peace be yours to share with your families and with all whom you encounter in this Christmas season and throughout the new year of 2024.

+ Michael F. Olson

Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, STD, MA
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