

# HOLY ROSARY

P A R I S H C O M M U N I T Y

## Pastor's Christmas Message 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Merry Christmas!

The angels are singing "glory to God in the highest and peace to all people on earth". Today Angels rejoice and we rejoice for the child of our longing has come to save us. He is Christ the Lord. May our families and parish be blessed with peace this Christmas!

I thank the Parish and all of you for your faith and generous service this past year. A special thanks to all volunteers of the parish for what you do. Over 300 volunteers give of themselves willingly in so many ways in the parish. Serving Catholic Women's League, Knights of Columbus, Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Food Pantry, Adult Faith, Choir, Catechesis, CAST, Décor, Funeral Luncheon, Communion to Sick, Bereavement, Stewardship, Finance, Liturgy, Refugee Council, Property Committee, Sacristans, Grounds, Sewing, Cleaning, Prayer Teams, Rosary, Jamaica, Manitoulin Island, Tree of Hope, and Pro Life and all the other works and ministries too numerous to mention. I thank all of you for helping to strengthen the mission of Christ in our world, by reaching out to one another and those in need.

For the past number of years Stewardship Council (Parish Council) has built on the results of the parish survey identifying three spiritual and temporal priorities. The first priority is pastoral care of individuals serving communion to the sick, visitation of parish members, and bereavement care. The second priority to help build and develop a program for our older youth called CAST. The third priority is providing careful stewardship of resources and strengthening communication. The parish continues to build up each priority.

This past year the parish generously sponsored a family in refuge. Today, the Saadoon family, Saeed, Amal, and their three children Hameed, Roya, and Seedra are now beginning their new life in Guelph. The family is now fully independent as of November 16. The father Saeed is working full time as a baker. Amal continues to learn English and raise the young one at home and the older children are fast becoming fluent in English and learning well at school. The family is living in downtown Guelph. I thank the parish Refugee Council, Chair Dolores Bergin, and all the many volunteers who helped the Saadoon's come to Canada. One day we will all stand before God and thank God that we were able to do what we could to help a family in need. I thank you parish!

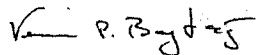
I am happy to report that the parish continues to grow in its spiritual life and mission. The parish has received 49 new families and individuals. Many report they have joined because they found a welcoming and active parish. I thank you for your kindness to new members. We have celebrated 47 baptisms, 66 First Communion, 36 Confirmations, 35 funerals, and 5 weddings and counts 3,202 souls registered and enrolled.

I would like to report a new Property and Building Council has been established and it has been discussing a number of critical infrastructure and structural issues concerning the parish hall, the rectory, and the outside church. When the Council offers their final assessment of work to be done I have asked that the vision they present must support the spiritual, evangelical, and pastoral work of the parish. What will need repair or needs to be built must be strong, the purpose for it explained, and all work design to be in harmony with the aesthetics of the exterior and interior of the church. I will call the whole parish together and invite all parishioners, pastoral groups and teams, to voice any further recommendations that will help the Council prepare any major work project. This will happen in the New Year. It is my hope that I can count on your prayer, help, and generosity.

Finally I want to thank you for your faith. I know that many of you pay a heavy price for your faith. God knows all that you do and you are blessed for your fortitude, patience, and generosity. You are building a strong parish of faith. Christmas is the promise of a God who comes to lift us up. May God lift up our families! Be assured the Christmas Masses will be offered for your families, your children, and loved ones. And for all of our families and friends who have been received into God's mercy this past year.

May God bless you this Christmas! A Blessed Advent, Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year!

With my blessing,



Fr. Vernon P. Boyd, SJ  
Pastor

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