



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised Be Jesus Christ! On this Solemnity of Epiphany, when we remember the Three Kings and the Gifts they brought to the Lord, I want to express my thanks to all who made our Christmas Celebration so beautiful. The Gifts of your Time, Talent and Treasure made this year's Christmas special for many and such sacrifice does not go unnoticed. Particular Note of thanks to/for the following:

1) ALL who participated in the Giving Tree this year! This year, your gifts and gift cards filled many bags downstairs and I'm sure filled many hearts with joy on Christmas. While this has become somewhat of a custom to collect gifts, it really is an act of Charity and a wonderful way of blessing. I was particularly moved this year, to see parents including their children in the act of selecting an ornament, purchasing and providing toys for those in need. Well Done!

2) Our Church Decorators! On the Friday before Christmas, our Church was quickly transformed into Christmas...with flowers, greens, wreathes and lights. Such décor is not just about decoration, but about beauty and beauty is about God. So many people expressed gratitude to me for the beautifully decorated Church. My gratitude to those who provided for it as I know it aided the worship of God! (Just imagine a Christmas without decorations!)

3) Our Ushers! I joked on Christmas Morning that our ushers had their face shields down and their swords out on Christmas Eve in an effort to control the crowds. While that wasn't exactly true, the crowds were thick for Christmas. I estimate 900 Christmas Eve and then another 1200 on Christmas Day. Whatever the numbers were, I'm very grateful that all was orderly, safe and no injury with such a large crowd. Special thanks to our ushers!

4) Finally, **our liturgical crew** of lectors, Extra-ordinary Ministers, Cantors, Choirs and Musicians. Our Liturgies of Christmas were celebrated very well. I'm grateful to all who not only showed up but prepared, worked hard and practiced well for the Celebration of Christ's Birth. Well Done!

The Celebration of Christmas is BIG and it comes and goes VERY QUICKLY. In fact, it is the shortest of all the Church Seasons. Next weekend, our Church decorations will be gone. While that may strike us as strange, it serves as a reminder that Jesus has a work to accomplish, a Mission to advance. And we are the recipients of that wonderful work. As we ready ourselves to hear and embrace that work in this New Year, let us continue to rejoice in Emmanuel, God-With-Us. Then grounded in His Embrace of Us, Baptized into Him and Made One with Him, we can day-by-day manifest Him outward in our way of Life.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers



St. Patrick Parish
Rosary
Sunday Evenings
7:00 PM
via Zoom

To join us online visit www.zoom.us. Select Join and enter
 Webinar ID: 859 4073 5946
 Passcode: stpatsksq

Additional login details and to submit your prayer requests
 can be found on the parish website.



Winter Bible Study Now Forming

**What We Believe-The Beauty of
 the Catholic Faith**

**January 23-March 26, 2024 (10
 weeks)**

Tuesday Evening 7-8:30PM

St. Joseph Room

To register for this study or if you have further questions, please contact
 Ann Marie Gillinger at amgmag03@gmail.com. You may also register
 online through the Parish Website or Parish Flocknote.

MORE DETAILS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE JANUARY 14 BULLETIN.