

# HOLY ROSARY

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

## PASTOR'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Rejoice for today a child is born. His name is Jesus. The Son of God. He is Christ the Lord. He comes to save us and bring us peace. May Christmas fill your hearts with joy and bless you and your family this Christmas. Let us rejoice at Christ's coming and welcome him into our homes.

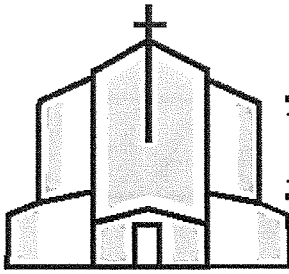
This past year, Pope Francis declared a Year of Mercy, and God has blessed our families with His mercy. Let us rejoice. A family from Syria and Iraq has been given safe refuge. The parish continues to work very hard helping the family settle in to new life in Canada. I can't thank Refugee Council and all involved for offering God's mercy to a family in need. The family is establishing themselves well in their new home, and thanks to your generosity, preparing to experience their first Canadian winter! God's mercy reminds us, Mary, Jesus, and Joseph, were also forced to seek safe refuge and they were received with kindness. I thank the Parish for your kindness to a family in refuge. It was a blessing for the Parish to meet and welcome Saeed & Amal, and their children Seedra, Hameed, and Roya, at our annual Pastor/Stewardship Christmas Open house! They were grateful to experience the meaning and spirit of the Christian tradition of Christmas.

May our parish continue to be blessed in God's mercy. Let prayer be our mission and ministry in a world longing for peace. I thank all who have worked so hard this past year giving your time and generosity helping others. I thank all Councils, Committees, ministries, individuals who serve the parish. If you are on Stewardship or Finance Council or serving in the food pantry, if you are visiting the sick, offer Mass and prayer for those in need, if you shovel the snow, rake the leaves, read at Mass, garden or plant flowers, if you serve at the altar, or sing at a funeral, clean the vestments, or make baptismal garments for a child, then these are just one of the many ways St. Ignatius of Loyola reminds us how to find God in all things.

I welcome all new parishioners to the parish. You are welcome and I hope your new parish will fill your heart with joy this Christmas. This past year the Parish has enrolled and registered 49 new families. I want to thank all for helping to make Holy Rosary a kind and welcoming parish. I want to especially welcome Ms. Grace Peters our new lead instrumentalist to the parish! And I thank Bart Hadala for his faithful and devoted service to us over the years.

This past year the Parish has celebrated 51 baptisms, 10 weddings, and 30 funerals. The RCIA team has been instructing 5 adults who will be received into the faith this coming Easter. Let us give thanks to God and pray for our catechumens and candidates preparing to be received into the fullness of the Catholic faith.

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I know that Christmas can be a difficult time for many who have experienced the loss of a loved one; a son, daughter, mother, father, a grandparent. May you be comforted in knowing the Son of God brings hope to us. He brings the promise of life with Him forever. The intention at all Christmas Masses will be offered for the needs of your families.

As we come to the close of the year, I want to inform you of a new important Council that is in the process of being established and is now meeting. This new Council will take its name as the Structural Repairs Council. Its mandate will oversee the needed repairs and structural additions where work must be done in the parish hall, the exterior of the church, and the rectory. The Council is only in the preplanning stage and collating the information. Before any repair or structural additions are made the Finance, Stewardship, and Repairs Councils will seek your recommendations. The Council has the mandate to oversee the work once accepted and approved by the Diocese. It is my hope that I can call upon your support and generosity when a new capital campaign is launched to help fundraise the costs required for repairs or additions to the exterior of the Church, Parish Hall, or Rectory. You will be kept informed of the process when repairs or structural changes must begin.

Once again, I thank you and on behalf of Fr. Roger and all the Jesuits, we wish you a Blessed and Merry Christmas. Thank you parish staff and all volunteers. Thank you for your generosity and faith. For being a beautiful parish, living a life of faith and service to others. May God bless you this Christmas and bless you and your families in peace and joy. Let us rejoice at His coming and help build a Kingdom of peace and justice, a Kingdom of love and service to one another, a Kingdom that welcomes the poor, the stranger, the sick, the healthy, the weak and the strong. Let us welcome Christ our Lord Son of Mary.

Merry Christmas!

With my blessing,  
Fr. Vernon P. Boyd, SJ Pastor