



*A Savior has been born for you
who is Messiah and Lord*

Christmas 2017

Dear Parish Members and Friends,

Several years ago I received a Christmas card with this message: *"This Christmas, I wish you Jesus."* On the inside it read: *"Isn't it nice to have everything!"*

In the midst of all our current challenges and concerns, the love of God the Father is made manifest to us in the wonderful gift of His Son, Jesus. With the angels in Bethlehem, our faith moves us to sing: *"Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth!"* We recognize that true peace on earth flows from our recognition and praise of God in our lives.

Christmas has a way of bringing to Church individuals and families who, for various reasons, have not been to Mass or the Sacraments for months or years. What a wonderful and grace-filled opportunity to put aside past differences and old habits, and begin anew that prayerful relationship with the Lord and His Church community. So, to all of you, I extend a warm welcome to join us in our Christmas prayer. Together, may we grow in strength and grace to know and celebrate together God's presence in our lives and in our world.

Enclosed with this letter is an Advent and Christmas schedule inviting you to any and all of our seasonal special events. I have also enclosed an offering envelope and invite you to make a special year-end gift to the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Hopefully, the Christmas collection will go towards our Building Fund.

May our Lord Jesus Christ, born in Bethlehem, bless you, your families and loved ones at this sacred time of hope and grace. May Mary, the Mother of the Child Jesus and our Mother, watch over you and our community here at Immaculate Conception.

On behalf of our wonderful staff and our parish trustees, I wish you a blessed Christmas!

Fr. Jerome R. Gingras
Pastor