

**December 25th, 2018  
The Nativity of the Lord**



On behalf of the **Parish Staff** – Sr. Michaela, Jean Hopley, and Jim Phillippe – I would like to extend to you and your families a very happy and holy Christmas and all God's blessings through the New Year.

I would like to encourage all of us to deepen our faith by setting aside Sundays to come and worship and give thanks to the God who created us and gives us all that we have. It is so easy, in our affluent culture, to take for granted all that we have without giving thought to God.

I know life can be busy and it is not always convenient to attend Sunday Mass, but try to make time in your schedules to keep holy the Sabbath by attending Mass in the spirit of thanksgiving.

Sincerely,  
Fr. Chris Lynch  
Pastor

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**New Year's Eve Mass – Feast of Mary, Mother of God, Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> Monday**

**- 7 pm Mass**

**New Year's Day Mass – Feast Day of Mary, Mother of God, Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday**

**-10 am Mass**

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God invites us to become sentinels for all those bowed down by the despair born of encountering so many closed doors. In this child, God makes us agents of his hospitality.

Excerpt from Pope Francis' Christmas 2017 homily at St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City.

**Sincere Gratitude**

So many people give of their time and talent to ensure the smooth operation of our parish and school and are never more than a phone call away to help when needed.

To **Sr. Michaela, Gary Samis**, chair of Parish Council as well as Finance Council and to all council members; to **Mrs. Kathleen Barth**, principal of Immaculate Conception School and **all the teachers and staff**; to **Arleta Lucarelli** and school council members; to **Elisa Camargo and Linda Boudreau** who look after the decorating and environment; to the **Knights of Columbus 8318**; to **Pat Hauck, Jerry Daigle, Michael Matwyuk, Jim Phillippe, and Ron Walsh** who oversee the maintenance; to those who make soup and sandwiches for St. Vincent de Paul Drop-In Centre; to all those who count the collection; to those who minister at the Masses; all the Altar Servers; **Shirley Delaney**, our Children's Liturgy Coordinator and her helpers; all our **Music Ministry Groups** leading us at Eucharistic celebrations; to **Diane Fuller** who leads the music at daily Mass; to our Hospitality Coordinator, **Eva Gillis** and all who serve in this ministry; to the Social Justice Coordinator, **Dr. Catherine Nolin-Hanlon** and those who help out in this ministry; to the Refugee Committee, to **Deborah Matwyuk** who coordinates the blanket making project and all who help with the Festival of the Trees, and so many others: **WE WANT TO EXTEND OUR SINCERE GRATITUDE TO YOU AND KNOW THAT YOU ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.**

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**If you are Hospitalized**

Just a reminder that if you are being admitted to the hospital and would like a visit from those whose ministry is visiting the sick, tell the admissions clerk that you are a Roman Catholic. They will then provide your name to those visiting the sick. **There is also a Catholic Priest, Fr. Louis Kwena and a religious sister, Sr. Vinda, who visit the hospital on a regular basis.** Due to the Privacy Act, a patient cannot be asked what religious affiliation they have, but can volunteer the information.

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## First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion

For those children in Grade 2 **who are ready** – i.e. they have been attending Sunday Mass on a regular basis - registration for these sacraments will take place on **Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 10 am** in the Parish Meeting Room.

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### Thank you

Fr. Chris, Sr. Michaela and Jean would like to extend sincere thanks for your cards, well wishes and gifts. Most appreciated. We feel truly blessed to be part of this parish and school community.

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### Immaculate Conception School

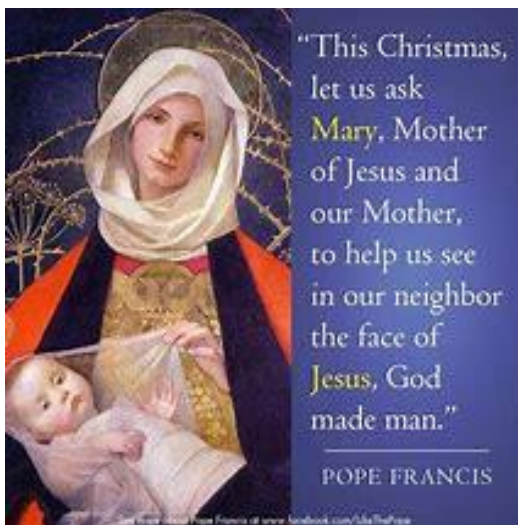
On behalf of our staff and students, we want to wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and New Year.

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### Please remember your Parish in your will

*Immaculate Conception Church and School have been there for you and your family during the most important moments of your lives. Help keep your Catholic faith community active and alive for years to come – please consider the school and Church in your Will.*

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Christmas is often a time for different generations in a family to come together. Grandparents delight in sharing Christmas memories with the youngest family members. On our Christmas tree we hang both new and old ornaments. Our celebrations this year usually prompt us to remember the Christmases long past.

God's promise to shepherd his flock spans both the old and the new covenants, as our first reading tells us. The birth of the shepherd-Messiah from the line of David will fulfill ancient promises and usher in an age of peace.

Such fulfillment—such peace, is what both old and young long for as we gather to celebrate Christmas this season. Perhaps the Christmas celebrations in our families might have room for some time of prayer and storytelling which would allow for those hopes to be voiced. For we celebrate the birth of the One who personifies peace: Jesus Christ, born into our world to fulfill the ancient longings of the human family.

Fr. Greg Friedman, O.F.M.

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### Jesus, the Light of the World

Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in meekness of heart. May we also remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving. Amen.