

## **A Note from the Pastor**

Dear Parishioners,

The Advent Season leads us right into the Christmas Season beginning with the 4:00PM Mass this Monday. Many parishioners and visitors will be here to joyfully celebrate Christmas in church on Monday and on Christmas Day. (There is a Mass at Midnight and the 12:30pm is the last Mass for Christmas.)

It is such a blessing that we are able to come together for the miracle of the Mass as we celebrate the miracle of the birth of our Lord and Savior. Christ comes to us in both miracles. On that first Christmas, it was really only Mary and Joseph who knew what was occurring. The Angels announced Jesus' birth and the Shepherds were drawn to adore him but the Good News took many years to become better known. It was St. John the Baptist who finally pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world and brings new life. Many people in our world still do not know Jesus and even some of his followers wonder if he is still with us. There are people who suffer and people who are anxious and are looking for strength and peace. Jesus constantly assured his followers that he would be always with them and that he is our peace. He still encourages his followers today.

May this Christmas be a time of joy and hope for all. No matter what the circumstances of our lives, Jesus walks with us. Even if our hearts are heavy for some reason, the light of Christ can scatter the darkness and the promise of new life in Christ that comes with the Nativity can lift our hearts.

Together with our priests, I promise you my prayers. I am grateful to God for the goodness of so many in this Blessed family of God that is St. Patrick's Parish. May the Christ Child keep us close to himself and one another in the Church always. Blessed Christmas!

Sincerely in Christ,

*Monsignor Giandurco*