

CHRISTMAS 2017

The celebration of Christmas is a time when we thank God for the gift of His son. We celebrate that God became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ over two thousand years ago. There is a very old legend, sometimes called "the Golden Legend" concerning that first Christmas. It tells how at the moment of the birth of Christ time stopped. The whole of creation held its breath, missed a beat, and stopped in its course. The whole of creation, from the minerals to the angels was aware of what had happened. Jesus was born to a darkened world and life would never be the same. We hear words that say with Christ's birth came light, hope, peace and joy. So those who gathered that silent night experienced a new birth in themselves. Mary and Joseph, the shepherds, the Wise Men all had hope born into them and they could never be the same. We, like them, are challenged to be a people born into hope. We, the followers of Jesus, are asked to be people of light, hope, peace and joy in our world and especially in our communities.

As we gather once again to thank God for the gift of His son, we will also share gifts with one another. I ask you to consider sharing a gift with St. Marcelline Parish. Our annual budget of the parish relies heavily on the generosity of the people at Christmas. This year's Christmas budget is \$77,000. As I mentioned last month at all the masses concerning our present financial situation I am very grateful for your generosity and for the generosity that has been shown in the To Teach Who Christ Is campaign. I am also very aware of the financial situation that many parishioners are experiencing because of the state of our economy and those who have lost jobs this past year. I am impressed with the response of those participating in the St. Marcelline Sharing Christmas Tree program and those financially supporting the St. Vincent de Paul Society and supporting their food pantry this past Thanksgiving. The Christmas collection is solely for the operating expenses of the parish. I humbly ask, if possible, for those families who can, to please consider making a gift to the parish this Christmas season of **\$150.00**. The Christmas collection will continue to allow St. Marcelline to offer the many ministries that make us a welcoming community of faith. It will help us to continue to become people of light, hope, peace and joy. May you and your family be blessed this Christmas season and may God's grace and peace be yours throughout the New Year.



Christmas Mass Schedule

~ Celebration of the Birth of Christ ~

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| Sunday, December 24 | 3:00 pm 3:15 pm – Diemer Hall 9:30 pm - Festival Prelude 10:00 pm |
| Monday, December 25 | 8:30 am 10:30 am |