

## **Pastor's Corner**

### *The Christmas Season, 10th Anniversary of Church, and Coming Attractions*

*The Christmas Season:* I can't believe I just typed 2020. It seems like the new Millennium just began and here we are 20 years into it and ready to begin the calendar year 2020. Of course, there is more Christmas celebrating to do as we near the year's end.

The Christmas Season doesn't conclude until the Lord's Baptism on Sunday, January 12, 2020. Why does Christmas go on for several weeks? Once Christmas Day has passed, there are still several major Christmas liturgical celebrations: (1) the Feast of the Holy Family (recognizing the special role of Joseph and Mary in the nativity and life of Jesus); (2) the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (recalling Mary's role as the Mother of Jesus); (3) the Solemnity of the Epiphany (remembering the Magi's visit to Bethlehem and the opening up of salvation to non-Jews); and (4) the Baptism of Jesus (recalling Jesus' baptism and our own baptism into Christ). We have these celebrations during Christmas Time because the incarnation of Jesus Christ into human flesh is so great an event that we just can't mark it for one day and be done with it. Rather, there must be a proper observance of this defining event in our salvation history. That is why Christmas is a Season, not a Day. So, let us savor God becoming one of us at Christmas

*10th Anniversary of the New Church:* A reminder that we will commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our New Church on January 5, 2020. As previously advised, there will be special festivities at the 10:00 am Mass that day. Hope you can join us.

#### *Coming Attractions.*

- +Cookie-making for the St. Joseph Altar begins on January 4. Just show up at the School Cafeteria between 8 am and 12 noon to lend a hand.
- +The Rite of Enrollment for Confirmation Candidates takes place on January 5 at 6 pm.
- +The 5-part Marriage Prayer Series for newly married couples begins on January 8.
- +The Rite of Enrollment for First Communion takes place on January 12 at 6 pm.
- +The Baby Bottle Campaign runs on January 18-19.
- +First Reconciliation is at 10 am on January 25.
- +The Parish Volunteer Thank-You Party is at 5 pm on January 25.
- +The Daughters of Isabella Luncheon is on January 26 at the Metairie Country Club.
- +The Isaiah 43 Parenting Program resumes on January 20.

In brief, 2020 is right around the corner and all the 2020 activities will be here quickly. Christmas blessings to all as the countdown to 2020 begins.

Fr. Joe