

Pastor's Corner

Immaculate Conception; Christmas Concert, and Blessing of Nativity and Outdoor Tree

Immaculate Conception Feast Day: Mother Mary, under the title of the Immaculate Conception, is the Patroness of the United States of America. In most years, her Feast Day on December 8 is a holyday of obligation. However, when December 8 falls on a Sunday in Advent – as it does this year – the Feast Day is moved from Sunday to Monday and the obligation to attend mass is dispensed. The day remains, however, a significant Feast in our Church. We will have parish masses on Monday, December 9, at 6:30 am and 8:00 am. There will also be a mass for the school children at 9:45 am. You are welcome to join us as we honor our Lady and seek her intercession at mass that day.



Christmas Concert, Blessing of Nativity Set and Lighting of Outdoor Tree: On Friday, December 13, we will gather in Church at 6:30 pm for a Christmas Concert performed by the St. Francis Xavier School Children's Choir. Directed by Mr. Bart Folsie and accompanied by Mrs. Alyce Coincon, the Choir is preparing a rich program of traditional Christmas hymns and popular Christmas carols. When I attended the concert last year, I was touched by the beauty of the choir's performance.

After the concert concludes around 7:00 pm, we will move outside for the blessing of our Nativity Set and lighting of our Christmas Tree. Wait till you see our new Nativity Set. Is it something! I am grateful to the Men's Club for purchasing the nativity set for our parish and for building a creche to house the nativity figurines. I also thank the Men's Club for erecting and decorating our outdoor Christmas tree and for decorating the area in front of the church by the oak trees.

After we bless the Nativity Set and light the Christmas tree, we will sing Christmas carols and enjoy seasonal refreshments – also courtesy of the Men's Club.

I hope you will consider joining us for the concert, nativity blessing, tree lighting, caroling, refreshments and socializing. This is a great opportunity to take a break from the busyness of the holidays and focus on what we are preparing for – Jesus.

God bless,
Fr. Joe