



IMMACULATE HEART^{OF} MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR DECEMBER 16, 2018

Dear friends in the coming Lord,

As much as we love Christmas, every priest in the Roman Catholic Church is bracing himself for the last week of this month! Since Christmas falls on Tuesday this year, we know that we will be in church most of our waking hours between the evening of December 22 and the morning of December 25. For example, Father Carlos and I will preside over 14 Masses during those 36 hours.

In a secular world that often prizes convenience over other virtues, our Catholic calendar of holy days can seem inscrutable. And yet, by making time in our lives to celebrate our feasts, whenever they may occur, we declare to the world—and to the Lord!—the priorities that truly govern our lives.

I realize that it will be tempting for many households to collapse the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas into one trip to church. I beg you to avoid that temptation. While children may complain about going to Mass twice in 2 or 3 days (and maybe not just children!), consider the example you set for them about our real values and true priorities.

I also plead for a financial gift from every household for both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas. The loss of a full collection would mean a shortfall to our operating budget of more than \$30,000, which could undo the excellent stewardship we have practiced all year. Likewise, if you will be planning any extra year-end charitable gifts, I encourage you to consider including IHM among them.

I thank you in advance for your Christmas prayers for your priests. Thank you also for your Christmas devotion to your faith and your Christmas generosity to your parish.

Your brother in Christ's word and work,