

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

We think of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in a thankful way this weekend, but I want to be sure to mention something about the New Year first.

I am pretty sure that some people feel that the obligation to attend Mass on January 1st is a real burden. After all, the day comes a week after Christmas and we already spend extra time in church at this time of year. In addition, even if people simply stay up to watch the ball drop on New Year's Eve, it is a late night and it is not easy to get up for one of the three Masses in the morning (ending with the 12:30pm Mass).

The truth is, however, that there is no better place to be other than church, and it is a blessing to dedicate one of the first twenty-four to thirty-six hours of the year to God in a special way.

During the Christmas season, we give thanks for Jesus' goodness to us, but we also give thanks for the Holy Family, and in particular for the Blessed Mother. On January 1st, we are asked to specifically give thanks for the Mother of Jesus; the Mother of God. In these days, we call upon St. Joseph also since he was one of the three members of the Holy Family and he will continue to watch over God's family of the Church.

Once again this week, as 2019 concludes and 2020 begins, we thank the Lord for the family of the Church and especially for our little portion known as St. Patrick's, Yorktown Heights. There is truly so much good that goes on here day in and day out. I am grateful to the many people who keep our parish strong, beginning with my associate priests, Fr. Wilson and Fr. Christian, our deacons, parish staff, volunteers and the many people who come here to experience God's presence. It is a challenge to put into words because it is a mystery, but God has never ceased to make his presence felt from the time of that first Christmas until now. He is with us even though we wait for Him. Let us trust in God, ask the intercession of all the saints, and especially this week, Mary of Nazareth, Mother of God and Mother of the Church. We also look to St. Joseph as our guardian.

Blessed New Year everyone! Let us stay close to Jesus and stay close to His Mother and His Church. New Year's Day is actually the eighth day in celebration of the Nativity. We continue to rejoice in the birth of Christ.

May Mary and Joseph pray for us always! God bless us all!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the page, below the typed name.