

FROM THE PASTOR'S LAPTOP:

January 6-7, 2018

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Today we mark the Solemnity of the Epiphany, commonly called "Three Kings." We recall the Magi, non-Jews, who came from the East to visit and adore the Child Jesus. This Feast reminds us that Jesus and his Gospel is universal, it is meant for the entire world. As we conclude the Christmas Season on this Monday with the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord, as we take down the trees, garland and holiday decorations, as we nibble on the last cookies and carefully put the stable and figurines away – may we keep the Christmas Spirit alive. Let us resolve not to put them away with the decorations but to keep the true joy, inner peace and hope that this season recalled, alive throughout the New Year.

As we conclude this holy season I want to extend my sincere thank you to all who helped to make this such a beautiful and uplifting Advent-Christmas season here at Saint John Bosco Parish.

*We are very grateful to the men who came out on Monday, December 18, to hang the garland in our church. It requires a lot of climbing to the beams of the ceiling. The volunteers included: **Joseph Molitoris, Larry Huff, Jr., Tim Martonik, Chris Blazic, Rich Tihansky, Joe Minzola and Bob Peak.** The garland will remain until the end of the Christmas Season on Monday, January 8, 2018. **We ask these men and any others to help us take the decorations down this Monday beginning at 5 PM in the Church.***

We are very grateful to those who came out to set up the Outdoor Nativity on Saturday, November 25, and those who will take it down on Saturday, January 13. I had a funeral on the day of set up and did not get a complete list of the volunteers but know that your hard work in the cold is deeply appreciated. Walking Heidi around the outside of the Church, I have observed many cars pulling into the Church lot to admire the Nativity set, take pictures and even bringing children and grandchildren to view it up close.

*A word of thanks to the **Wolk Family** for the beautiful large live tree and to **Lisa Seiwel** for taking professional photographs of our Church decorated for Christmas and to **Maryanne Trivelpiece** for donating all the fresh wreaths for our Church Complex and Rectory and the assistance of Mary Nora Wallace in hanging them.*

*I think that we can all say that our Church was decorated beautifully throughout the holiday season. I am grateful to **Tim & Emily Martonik** who put up the outdoor lights at the Rectory and Church and to the following who helped with the indoor trees, poinsettia*

plants and set up of the Crèche. I hope I didn't miss anyone: **Mary Nora Wallace, Diane Klouser, Dorothy & Bob Peak, Marni D'Amato, Jan Rossi, Dolores Babula, Nancy Kowalski, Emily & Tim Martonik and Sandra Honis.** I am also appreciative of those who watered the tree and plants throughout the season.

Naturally, we are grateful to our **Liturgical Ministers: Our Liturgy Committee, Choir Director, Altar Servers, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Cantors, Musicians, Children and Adult Choirs, Ministers of Hospitality, Ushers, as well as those who counted the collection, stuffed the bulletin, our parish office and maintenance staff and our parish clergy: Deacon Maurice, Father Hockman and Father Brosk, for their assistance with the Masses and Confessions.**

Finally, I am appreciative of the work of our **Faith Formation Staff & Catechists, Youth Ministry and Family Group** for making the Advent and Christmas Season special for our Children in preparing the Christmas Pageants, movie night, cookies for the Salvation Army, family ornaments and gifts for the needy. I am grateful to **Arlene Stagg** and her committee for planning, cooking and serving the special December dinner at the Salvation Army and providing those who came with gloves, hats and scarfs. A special kudos to **Donna Pesansky** and her daughter, **Jocelyn** for coordinating the **Giving Tree** for the Catholic Social Services and all of our parishioners and friends who donated clothing and toys for the disadvantaged of the greater Hazleton area. I am also very grateful to **John Sanko** for his initiative and thought in preparing and having printed the Conyngham Valley Church Cartoon book and for giving our parish the proceeds of the sale to help defray the cost of future renovation of our Church Roof. Additional copies are still available in the parish office at only \$10.

The prayerfulness of our **parishioners, out-of-town guests and visitors** over the holidays as well as your generosity to the work of our Parish which is the work of Christ, was a true blessing. On behalf of the Parish Staff, Deacon Maurice, Father Hockman, Fr. Steven and myself, we also want to thank you for your thoughtful and generous holiday remembrances. Your cards, baked goods and gifts are deeply appreciated. May you and your loved ones have a healthy, happy and blessed New Year 2018. Be assured of a remembrance in my prayers and Masses.

God Bless You,

Father Ric Polmounter, Pastor