

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I'm so glad you're reading this letter! It means you've joined us at Holy Family Parish for Mass on Christmas eve or day - or that someone who did join us shared this program with you. I'm glad because it gives me one more opportunity: to wish you a Merry Christmas; to pledge you my prayers for a healthy, happy and holy New Year; and to remind you of how important you are to me and to the people of Holy Family.



**Merry Christmas!** Whatever may be your worries and burdens this Christmas, I hope that the light and joy of celebrating Christ's birth might pierce through any darkness clouding your thoughts and shine a blessing of peace upon your heart. Christmas can bring out the best in us and at the same time stir up what's most troubling in our souls. May the joy you remember of Christmases past touch with healing any hurt or brokenness you carry today.

**Happy New Year!** I know you join me in praying that the new year ahead will find our world and our nation more peaceful and free from the violence and terrorism that has so deeply scarred humankind in recent times. A favorite tune prays *let peace begin with me...* World peace may not begin at your doorstep or mine but working for and making peace in our homes, families and neighborhoods is certainly where each of us can make a difference. May the new year find each of us being the peacemakers the Lord calls us to be.

**You Are Important to Our Parish!** Perhaps you're a regular, faithful involved member of our parish; perhaps you're an on-again/off-again worshipper; perhaps you're someone who has drifted away from the Church and has come back at Christmas to be with the Lord and his people; or perhaps you're someone visiting, with not much history or relationship to the Church but seeking a place to pray at Christmas - **all** of you are important to the life of Holy Family Parish! Without the folks who are always with us, our parish would not exist. As "occasional" parishioners join us more often, our parish grows in vitality and outreach. The return of any who've drifted away would, I trust, benefit you in your spiritual life and, I know, enhance the life of our parish community. And if you're new to the Catholic experience, please know that we welcome your presence and your inquiry into our faith. **We welcome all of you!** As we approach the eve of a new year, I pray that all of us resolve to participate more fully in the life of our parish and to grow, together, in that faith that brings us all closer to God and to one another.

All of the above is why I'm glad you're reading my letter this Christmas! Please be in touch to let me and our parish staff know how we might serve you. We worship together on Saturday nights at 5:00 p.m. and on Sundays at 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Come, join us! Come, pray with us! Come find the peace within!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Fr. Austin Fleming

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