

## **ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS THANK YOU!!!!**

This weekend we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, which draws to close the Christmas Season. Once again, this past Advent and Christmas at Holy Spirit Parish were great experiences! Many thanks for your generosity to all those in our parish for this Advent, Christmas and including the past year; not only in monetary support, but also in your gift of faith and service, sharing your God-given talents to help build up our community of faith. As well, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to all of you who remembered me with your prayers, cards with supporting sentiments, beautiful gifts, and food, during this holy season. As you can see we have a lot to be thankful for...God continues to truly bless us. Thank you...

- to those who attended the installation of our new bishop, Christian. Your presence was a sign of 'welcome' and 'appreciation' to his new ministry!
- to those who brought forth the light during our Advent Liturgies.
- to our Religious Education Coordinators, Teachers and Classes for the great work that is being accomplished with our Youth Faith Formation. As well, to the classes for taking part in the liturgies.
- to those on our Liturgy Committee who prepared Liturgies such as Evening Prayer Service, Lessons in Carols, and decorated our worship spaces. Also to those who coordinated the "Procession of Light" during Advent and to those who invite families, youth and friends to bring up our gifts at Mass.
- to those who helped prepare and celebrate our "First Advent Communal Reconciliation Service," at St. Matthew's Worship Site (SMWS)! What an awesome experience of God's love and mercy!!
- to those who were involved in our annual "Anointing of the Sick and Reception" at St. Rose Worship Site (SRWS)! It was so nice to see additional people of all ages come to the forefront to help serve at this important celebration!!
- to those who keep our sign at St. Matthew's Worship Site up-to-date... even in the worse weather.
- to those who cleaned our churches, shoveling, moving chairs and other 'odd jobs' necessary for our buildings.
- to the many who did a beautiful job in decorating our worship spaces. As always, many wonderful comments received... Well done!
- to those who made monetary donations in memory of a loved one, helping us to purchase flowers and to replace Christmas decorations that were worn and unsightly.
- to our Youth who participated at the Christmas Masses, especially our readers, musicians and choir and pageant and those who worked so hard to direct the pageant. Well done!
- to Mary Rose Daigle and choir of SMWS! Mary Rose continues to prepare music, lead various liturgies and directs our SMWS choir! She also spent much time preparing and directed our 'youth choir' at the Mass at 4 pm at St. Matthew's Worship Site.
- to our music ministry at St. Rose Worship Site: Trish Gallagher, and her students (and alumni) who put on a 100 voice concert with various instruments prior to Christmas.

A FULL church in attendance and a wonderful reception followed afterwards! Many photos were taken during the concert. (If anyone has pictures please send them to our office for our website). It was a great celebration to help lead us into the Christmas Season.

- as well, thank you to the many students (and alumni) who came forward for the Christmas Liturgies at both 6 and 8 pm to offer their gift of song and instrument talent! Wow! Many positive comments are still coming in!
- to our Knights for putting up our outdoor manger scene; for addressing the particular needs in our community; who sponsored the Christmas Party for the youth of our parish and for your ongoing assistance-Thank You!
- to those who offered 'generous response' to Lonewater Farm. Truly what you donated was phenomenal!!
- to those who continue to make and donate soup for Avenue B and offered food and monetary donations for those in need...showing us how to be "the light of Christ to others".
- to our Greeters, Sacristans, Readers, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Counters and those who open the church, clean, turned up (and down) the heat, and keep our entrances 'sanded, salted and clear'.
- to our Maintenance Committee for their ongoing and watchful eye for what is needed in our facilities. The side entrance stairs for St. Rose Worship Site were fixed and the railings raised to proper code/standards. Also please watch our bulletin and website for ongoing and up-and-coming projects to make our sites more accessible and welcoming!
- to our "Revitalization Committee" who continue to work so hard to bring about a 'vibrant' and 'inclusive' new parish.
- to our Secretary, Bernice Martin, for her ongoing commitment to our parish and it's administrative demands!
- to the priests who continue to offer words of wisdom and encouragement, especially to Fr. Tom Fowler and Fr. Mike LeBlanc.
- to anyone or ministry I may have inadvertently failed to mention and those of you who have contributed "silently" in any way toward making this a truly blessed and joyful Christmas celebration, I thank you. These "gifts from the heart" are great signs of the love you have for your faith community. On a personal level, they are signs of affirmation, love and support. Many wonderful compliments were made regarding our warmth, hospitality and the beautiful liturgies. Certainly, you have collectively made known to many others, Holy Spirit Parish! I was given an 'apron' for Christmas that says, "This Priest has an awesome parish!" So true! I am very proud of your hard work, ongoing dedication and commitment to our parish! I am grateful for your "evangelizing" hearts! Finally, I would like to wish you and those you love every good blessing for 2020 and always!!

~Fr. David Martin