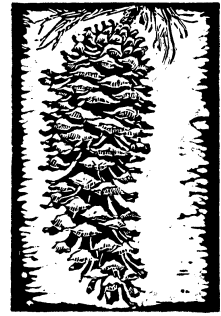


Christmas 2011

Dear Friends,

In the Collect (Opening Prayer) for the Christmas Mass at Dawn, we hear:

*“Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that, as we are bathed in the new radiance of your incarnate Word,
the light of faith, which illumines our minds,
may also shine through in our deeds...”*



How fortunate we are to be celebrating once again the new light that comes from Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word of God living among us. At Christmas we not only celebrate that God became incarnate in the person of Jesus of Nazareth more than two thousand years ago, but we also take great delight in Jesus continuing to be present and dwelling in our midst.

The evidence of the presence of Jesus surrounds us in so many ways, in the:

- ♦ Generosity of our parishioners who with St. Augustine’s parishioners brought joy to the needy by responding abundantly through our *Agape* program;
- ♦ Faces of parishioners who are eagerly anticipating the arrival of a new child into their homes; and,
- ♦ Response to Living Stewardship as a Way of Life.

Our parish is glad to welcome those who have come to pray with us this Christmas:

- ♦ Young adults and students home from college for the holidays; we are glad to see you once again and to hear you share some of your stories.
- ♦ Family members of our parishioners; your visit helps spread some Christmas cheer.
- ♦ People who are searching for a Catholic parish to become their community of faith; we invite you to consider becoming members of our parish as we share with you what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ here at St. Mary’s. If you are not Catholic, we welcome you to consider becoming one through our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. If you are a Catholic and have not been actively involved in the Catholic Church recently, you may find some of our offerings helpful for you.

And for all of us who are parishioners, it is great for us to gather together with familiar faces to celebrate the presence of Jesus Christ among us. As committed stewards of the gifts God has given to us—individually, as households, and as a parish—we rejoice in all that we have received. We are happy that we are able to share some of those gifts with each other and those beyond our parish boundaries.

May God bless all of you and your family and friends during these holy days and throughout the New Year. May we find that peace and rest in God in this season. If there is anything that a member of our staff can do to help you, please do not hesitate to contact us.

In the peace of Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Phil". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom center of the page.



Welcome to St. Mary's

We hope you have been
blessed by our Christmas
Masses.

Please contact the Adult Faith Formation office
(360) 675-2303 or PSmith@StAugustineOH.org
if you are a non-Catholic or non-practicing Catholic and
would like to learn more about the Catholic Faith.

Please contact St. Augustine's Parish Office (360) 675-2303 or
information@StAugustineOH.org or our website:
StAugustineOH.org if you have questions about:

*Updating your Sacraments
Infant Baptisms
Marriage and Annulments*

Please contact St. Mary's Office (360) 678-6536 for questions about:

Communion to the Sick and Homebound

The Parish Staff is not here just to answer phones, we are here to answer your
questions and invite you to a deeper relationship with Christ.

*Catholicism is not simply a Creed to be memorized;
it is a faith to be lived.*

It is not a book to be read; it is a spirit to be caught.