

Pastoral Message for December 23-24, 2017  
Fourth Sunday in Advent

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,



This Monday we celebrate Christ's birth! I, together with all our clergy and lay pastoral ministerial team, wish you every Christmas blessing and God's abundant mercy that is filled with Divine peace! With members of our parish family and so many others traveling during Christmas, let us pray for safe travels during this holy time. In a very special way I welcome home to our Cathedral Basilica this Christmas all who have been away from the Church during the past weeks, months, and years. Know that I, our entire pastoral team, and all your fellow Catholics love you and have always prayed for you during every Mass celebrated here in our Cathedral Basilica.

We hope and pray that God's many graces and mercy will help you dissolve the personal obstacles that have been preventing you from being with us in person for Mass each weekend.

It is also our parish's joy to have our sisters and brothers of other faith traditions and Christian denominations with us for Christmas Masses here at our Cathedral Basilica. I welcome you with the love of a brother and assure you that all of us here at our Cathedral Basilica are praying every day for unity among all God's people. May we strive for this unity in our mutual daily prayer, through our unity of working together to assist the less fortunate through acts of charity, corporal plus spiritual works of mercy, and by studying together to discover authentic strategies to bring about a unity in God while respecting our rich particular charisms, traditions, and our diversity.

In this bulletin you will find our Cathedral Basilica Christmas Season schedule. As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth at Christmas and Christ's coming at the end of time, let our lives be open to God's coming each and every day. May we continue to pray for our Catholic sisters and brothers who have been away from Mass and the Sacraments. Please join me in reaching out to these precious members of our Catholic family with God's merciful love through our going to them with our personal invitation to **COME HOME TO OUR CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE SACRAMENTS FOR CHRISTMAS!**

Let us also prayerfully remember those who live alone, those who live on our streets, the poor, sick, suffering, troubled, our deployed service personnel, as well as all those who find the holidays an emotionally stressful and difficult time. May the mercy and peace of our Lord be with everyone now and always.

Christmas blessings, love, and prayers,

*Msgr. Jerry*

