



Christ the Savior is born

Dear Parishioners of Holy Spirit,

As we draw near to the end of the year, we prepare ourselves to celebrate the joyous season of Christmas. It is at this time in our liturgical calendar that we remember the arrival of the One who is called Emmanuel...*God with us*. Each year brings new wonder and amazement at this profound miracle: the descent of the Son of God from heaven to earth. The Divine left behind the glory and splendor of Heaven and took on human flesh; the Word who spoke creation into existence cried out as He took His first breath; the Almighty One was made helpless and dependent on the Virgin Mary and St. Joseph; the King of King and Lord of Lords set up a throne in a manger, where He was first adored by lowly shepherds. At a time of year when giving is so strongly emphasized, we must all remember that the greatest gift ever bestowed, and ever received, came two thousand years ago, in the middle of the night, in the most lowly and unexpected of places.

Holy Spirit Catholic Church is truly blessed by the generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure from her parishioners. As you begin making your preparations for the holiday season, we ask that you consider our parish's End of Year Giving Campaign. By marking your gifts before December 31st, 2017, you will also be able to receive a reduction on the taxes that you file this year. Let your gift be a sign of your gratitude to the Lord to the Lord for His many blessings this year!!

As a sign of *our* gratitude to you, please except this free book from renowned Catholic author Matthew Kelly, titled *Perfectly Yourself: Discovering God's Dream For You*. In his usual deep yet accessible style, Matthew Kelly explores God's plan for each of us, the plan to transform us into "the best version of ourselves." God has designed each one of us unique, precious, and unrepeatable, and it is His desire for us the discover our identity in the light of His grace. When we know ourselves as He knows us, and see ourselves through His eyes, we are then able to be a gift to others.

Beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, let this Christmas season truly be a time of giving. Give thanks for the Birth of Christ, whose entry into our world paved the way for our salvation. Give from your treasure, that you may bless the Church and be blessed in return. Most of all, gift the gift of God's love to others, the love that is only found when give ourselves, whole and entire, to Lord of Heaven and Earth.

God bless you all, and have a very Merry Christmas!!

Yours In Christ

Father Rudi Crasta
Pastor of Holy Spirit Catholic Church

Grace and peace,

Jeremy Trull
Seminarian Intern