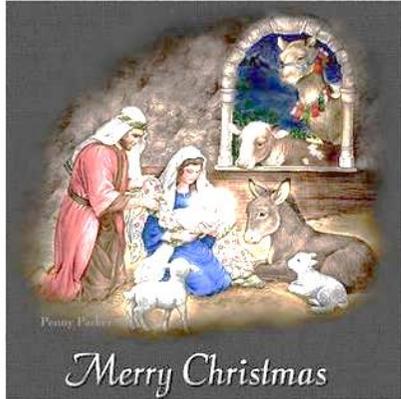


FROM FATHER BOGDAN'S DESK



Dear Brothers
and sisters

**"Glory to God
in the highest
heaven, and on
earth peace
among those
whom God
favours!" (Luke
2:13-14)**

As we celebrate the birth day of the Babe of Bethlehem, I wish you "A peaceful, joyous and grace-filled Christmas and a hopeful, prosperous, and promising New Year-2019. I pen to express my greetings to you and your families. I think not only of those who live within our parish but also your family members, dear and near ones, at this special season of the year.

Christmas reminds us that our God is not a distant God but A God who is with us, "Emmanuel." May the Emanuel God find place in our hearts and homes. During this season, we Christians, remember and celebrate that sacred moment in human history when God entered in our world, becoming part of every one of us and the whole human race. Christmas brings us back to the source of our life and existence. God has come into the world, with His love, peace and hope that makes us joyful and rejoicing. His light has shone in our darkness and no darkness can overpower this light.

As a priest for many years, 5 years in this parish, of St. John Fisher, I feel blessed and so uplifted by the huge number of parishioners who minister, in many ways, alongside me with dedication and enthusiasm. In truth you are the heart of the parish. Working together we aim to have a parish that is 'inclusive' where everyone is and feels welcome. This always gives a feeling of a "One Family" which Christ wants to create in us. On this special season, I wish to leave a note of gratitude for your support and generosity. I pray that the presence of the Christ-Child will grace your home during this Christmas season and throughout the coming year. God bless you!

We have had numerous baptisms (59), 1st Holy Communion (48), Confirmations (33), funerals (31) and weddings (11) that have kept us busy and thank you to all who made these sacraments as successful as they were.

OUR BIG PROJECT 2018: The new parking area is partially completed and we hope you feel more comfortable and safer parking there. Sincere thanks to the committee who organised this huge project and got everything organised.

CAKE RAFFLE WINNERS:

Christmas Cake: Phillip Abraham and Adrian Mc Glade
Turkey: Rose Cawthorn and Stefan Susmak
Gammon: Andrew Dawson and Carla van Coller

GETTING INVOLVED WITH YOUR PARISH

THE CATHOLIC WOMAN'S LEAGUE ~ Altar Servers ~ TEA DUTIES ~ ASSISTING WITH SOCIALS ~ **TEACHING CATECHISM CLASSES** ~ ORGANISING CERTAIN FUNCTIONS ~ GARDENING ~ **MUSIC** ~ YOUTH ~ SACRISTY DUTIES ~ WELCOME COMMITTEE ~ VISITING THE SICK ~ EUCHARISTIC MINISTER ~ READERS ~ **RENEW GROUPS** ~ Maintenance ~

Consider joining one of these groups as the more parishioners working for the parish the more gets done joyfully. **BE PART OF THE HEART OF THE PARISH!**

CHILDREN'S CORNER



The Christmas tree represents the original Tree of Paradise; the burning bush which spoke to Moses; the family tree of Jesse from which Jesus was born; the life-giving tree of the cross of Christ; and the tree which St. John the Apostle saw in the Book of Revelations whose leaves were medicine for the people. Because it is green year-round, the evergreen tree represents hope. Its needles and its narrow crest point upward, turning our thoughts to heaven. Because the tree is cut down and then put up again in our homes and shops, it is a symbol of Christ's resurrection.

Tinsel is the thin, metallic strands that are used in Christmas decorations. A legend tells of a poor, faithful family who wished to decorate a Christmas tree in honour of the Christ Child but who had no money for decorations. In the night, spiders came and spun webs across the tree. Then the Christ Child, honouring the family's faith, turned the threads into silver. When we want to give our all to Christ, but we think that we have nothing of value to give, God gives value to our offerings. God does not measure worth by world standards but by spiritual ones. Give Christ your all and He will consider it more precious than gold. (Adapted from St. John Vianney Catholic Church website)

To all our new parishioners, welcome to St. John Fisher we hope your stay with us will be a happy and spiritual one and I wish you all a very blessed and Holy Christmas and a wonderful and successful New Year.

I will be away from 14-24 Jan 19

Yours in Christ

Father Bogdan Wilkaniec (S.Chr)

