



# *Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year*



Dear Friends,

The Norwegian novelist and Nobel Prize winner Sigrid Undset (1882-1949) once wrote:

*And when we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans--and all that lives and moves upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have mis-used--and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, He came down to earth and gave us Himself.*

There are presents beneath the tree; or perhaps stuffed into a stocking. We will carry presents with us when visiting family and friends. Our Advent Giving tree, and the abundance of presents that were donated, is a reminder that there are many in need of basic things we take for granted.

This season of gift giving is both a blessing and a challenge. It is a blessing when we witness the generosity of the human spirit. The challenge lies in realizing that the greatest gifts needed are not found on the Internet or in the shopping mall. They are the gifts Jesus gives and asks us to share generously with others: mercy, love, forgiveness and a listening heart.

Throughout the year at the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, parishioners generously give of their time, their talent and their treasure. Those are the gifts that continue to make our parish vibrant. Included on the other side of this letter is the Christmas schedule. Please look over the Mass schedules for Christmas and New Year's day and the Penance services as well as the timetable for the annual Community Christmas Dinner. Come for Mass. Come to confession or to spend quiet time in prayer. Come to help with the Christmas Dinner. Come knowing that you are always welcome.

An envelope is included should you want to support our parish ministries. Wherever you choose to attend Mass, your envelope will be sent to the church designated on the envelope.

I am grateful to all of you and blessed to serve as your pastor. To you and all those you love, I wish you a very happy Christmas and peace in the New Year.

*Father Pat*



## ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES:

St. Philomena - Wednesday, December 12 at 7:00 p.m.  
 Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels -  
 Wednesday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m.

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Children's Faith Formation

Sunday, December 23 @ 9:15 a.m.

**BASILICA TOUR**—December 26th @ 1:00 p.m.

## CATHOLIC MASS SCHEDULE FOR OUR LINKED PARISHES:

### Christmas Vigil Mass Monday December 24

4:00 p.m. Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, Olean  
 4:00 p.m. Sacred Heart Oratory, Portville  
 4:30 p.m. St. John the Evangelist, Olean  
 7:00 p.m. St. Philomena, Franklinville  
 9:00 p.m. Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, Olean

### Christmas Day Mass Tuesday December 25

9:00 a.m. Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, Olean  
 10:00 a.m. St. John the Evangelist, Olean  
 11:00 a.m. Sacred Heart Oratory, Portville

### Monday, December 31 New Year's Eve Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

4:00 p.m. Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, Olean  
 4:30 p.m. St. John the Evangelist, Olean  
 5:30 p.m. St. Philomena, Franklinville  
 11:30 p.m. Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, Olean

### Tuesday, January 1 New Year's Day Mass Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

9:00 a.m. Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, Olean  
 9:30 a.m. St. John the Evangelist, Olean  
 11:00 a.m. Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, Olean

## Annual Community Christmas Dinner

Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels—Bradley Centennial Hall  
 Use South First & West Henley Entrance

### DINNER RESERVATIONS

Before Fri., DECEMBER 21st at noon, call:  
 Basilica Office 716-372-4841 Mon. thru Fri., 9 AM-2 PM  
 After DECEMBER 21st call: 814-598-0158 9 AM-4 PM

*Dinner includes ham, potatoes, mixed vegetables,  
 applesauce cup, roll, and dessert.*

### VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

<b>Sat. Dec. 22</b>	Pie drop-off—after Mass (Berry only. No cream or pumpkin due to health code regulations.)
<b>Sun. Dec. 23</b>	Set-up & decorating Ham/potato prep Pie drop-off after each Mass
<b>Tues. Dec. 25</b>	<b>Christmas Day</b> Dinner prep Delivery line & food line Drivers to deliver meals Take-outs available Dinner servers for dine-in guests Cleanup begins



**VOLUNTEER!**  
 Call 716-372-4841 x 25

Monetary donations  
 appreciated to offset  
 our costs.

**Make checks payable to:**  
 "Basilica of St. Mary of the  
 Angels—Christmas Dinner"



**DRIVERS NEEDED**  
 Call 716-372-4841 x 25