



January 2016

Dear Parishioner,

“When the days of December are numbered, and the earth begs its snowflakes to fall, that’s the time of the year that Christmas is here. With Peace and Good will for all.” You may or may not recall Perry Como singing those words from That Christmas Feeling. You may or may not even recall Perry Como. I hope however, that you will be filled with Peace and Good will as you recall Christmas!



The Holy Season of Christmas provides us with the annual opportunity to recall *when the Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, and she conceived of the Holy Spirit*; to recall when “the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born Son and wrapped in Him swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”



(Saint Luke II:6-7); to recall when *wise men from the East followed the star of the new-born King of the Jews, til it came to rest over the place where the Child was; and going into the house they saw the Child with Mary His Mother, and they fell down and worshipped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they fell down and offered Him gifts, gold and frankincense, and myrrh* (cf. Saint Matthew II:2-11). Yes, the Christmas Season is the annual opportunity to recall that “God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have Eternal Life” (Saint John III:16).

“Kids from one to ninety-two” (as Nat King Cole reminds us in The Christmas Song) believe in Him, and so love Him, that two thousand years after His Birth they continue to recall it and give thanks for it; not simply by listening to and singing inspirational Christmas Carols at Christmas, but by what they do the rest of the year: at home where they love one another the Way that *God so loved them*; at work where they *make disciples*; at school where they *teach them to obey all that He commanded*; and at Our Holy Redeemer where in the Spirit of Christmas, they not only recall and give thanks for His birth, but they *Baptize* giving birth to Jesus with the time, talent, and treasure that keeps us singing all year long! (cf. Saint Matthew XXVIII:19-20)



Please, as a new calendar year dawns, make a resolution to keep us singing and to *come home* with the time, talent, and treasure that, when it comes from you, helps to make Our Holy Redeemer, “where *coming home* is what it’s all about!”

Singing for Our Holy Redeemer,  
Father Arcoleo