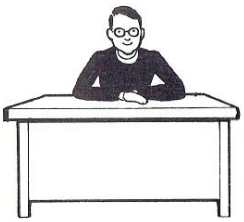
✠ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR ✠



GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY
FAITH AND STEWARDSHIP IN 2015

In just a few days, the United States Postal Service will deliver to you and other registered Our Holy Redeemer parishioners a personalized version of the following letter. If you do not receive the letter by Ash Wednesday (10 February), it could mean that your records at Our Holy Redeemer are inaccurate. Therefore, after reading the letter as it is printed below, **please take a moment to complete the Parish Census form on the following page**. The information you provide will not only help get your records straight, but it will also help ensure that you continue to receive the Good News of great joy being proclaimed by the Church in Freeport: Who is Christ the Lord!

✠ ✠

Dear (Registered Parishioner):

"The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you Good News of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a Saviour has been born for you Who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger'" (Saint Luke II: 10-12). "**Although it's been said many times, many ways**" with help from Angels, Evangelists, singers, musicians, and even *The Charlie Brown Christmas Special*, none of us ever tire of hearing that Good News of great joy! That's why so many of us, "**kids from one to ninety-two**" not only *come home for Christmas* but *come home after* Christmas too!

According to our records, the Good News of great joy that brought you home in 2015, inspired you to offer Our Holy Redeemer (your financial contribution for 2015). That offering, combined with the offerings of countless others, helped provide Priests (including a newly Ordained Priest) and Deacons for the celebration of the Sacraments; maintain and repair Parish buildings, equipment, and grounds; educate children in Religious Education; provide food, drink, and clothing to people in need; pay salaries; provide employee benefits; and pay bills that keep the lights on and the water running! And for the first time in over twenty-five years, those gifts began reducing our financial indebtedness to the Diocese of Rockville Centre; a debt that is now $42,000.00 less than it was a year ago because of you and your response to the Good News of great joy! Thank you!

After the shepherds found Mary and Saint Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger, they made known the Good News of great joy and Mary we are told*, kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart* (cf. Saint Luke II: 15-20). Please take a moment to go into your own heart, and like Mary, reflect on this Good News of great joy. While there, please consider adding *25 cents more a week (that's all)* to your Sunday-offering and purchasing a *Raffle/Raffle/Raffle* ticket in support of our only official fundraiser. Your ticket purchase and offering of *25 cents more a week* will "***help to make the season(s) bright"*** in 2016 by proclaiming the *Good News of great joy that will be for all the people; Who is Christ the Lord*!

Proclaiming Good News of Great Joy,

Father Arcoleo

Father Arcoleo