



CONTEMPLATING GOD'S GIANT LEAP

Please never tire of contemplating God's giant leap. His giant leap for you didn't end at Christmas and your small steps for Him shouldn't end at Christmas either; and they shouldn't just bring you back for Easter when God's giant leap rose from the dead for you. Your small steps should bring you back to church every Sunday of the year to recount God's giant leap at the Jordan River where Christ was baptized for you; in the desert where Christ was tempted for you; in Galilee where Christ worked miracles for you; on the Cross where Christ died for you. Remember, as many small steps you may take, "The Lord always goes further, He goes first. We make a step" says Pope Francis, "and He makes ten." Keep stepping out for Christ and He will keep leaping over you! Merry Christmas!

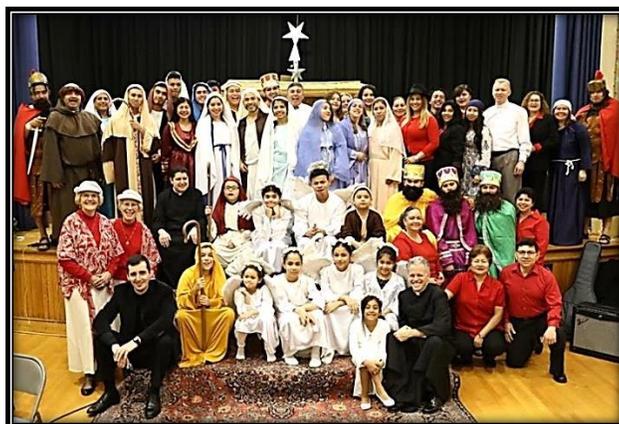


On 25 December 2018, that is the way the Christmas Season began at Our Holy Redeemer in Freeport, and that is the way the Our Holy Redeemer Christmas Bulletin *Message from the Pastor* ended. It is reprinted here, as part of the *Message from the Pastor* for the Feast of the Lord's Baptism/the final day of the Christmas Season (Liturgically), in thanksgiving to God for all of you who have heeded its message; those of you who have continued to take the small steps that led you home for Holy Mass to celebrate with us the Feast of the Holy Family (30 December), the Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God (1 January), the Epiphany/Little Christmas (6 January), and today's Feast of the Lord's Baptism! Your many small steps to Our Holy Redeemer allow the giant leap of Our Holy Redeemer to step into our lives and do great things!

God's giant leap not only brought you *home* to our absolutely beautiful church for Holy Mass this Christmas Season, but it also brought many people to church for a heartwarming New Year's *Christmas Concert with the Classics* provided by Philipp Petkov and his wife Olga Tourkina, as well as our second annual New Year's Eve Night of Adoration. What a way to end one year and begin the next: with the giant leap Himself!

Outside of church, God's giant leap brought many people to Our Holy Redeemer School gymnasium for a standing room only celebration of our annual Christmas Pageant/Las Pastorelas. The many small steps of children, youth, and adults (amongst whom Maria French, Gloria Giannuzzi, Marta Hernandez, Nicole Tice, Blanca Peralta, Dinorah Sanchez, Kendy Marte, and Carthy & Larry shone like the Star of Bethlehem) – and a few sheep and camels as well – helped all of us in attendance to remember the many small steps of the people whom God used to take His giant leap!

It was at Las Pastorelas that the Little Drummer Boy selected the winning ticket for our *I Can't Wait for Christmas Subaru Raffle*. And while there was only one winner of that brand new 2019 Subaru Forester, all the parishioners who contributed to that Parish-fundraiser are "winners"! Their small steps, taken as many were while participating in our Parish's *Enhanced Offertory Campaign*, and a busy Christmas Season, managed to generate over 1000 ticket sales, and were an investment in Our Holy Redeemer that is "paying off" for all of us! (A special "shout out" to Father Fernando Echeverri of *Holy Name of Mary Parish* in Valley Stream who helped spread the Good News to fifty "investors"!)



At the beginning of a new Liturgical Season (Ordinary Time) let us all resolve to keep contemplating God's giant leap: at Holy Mass, in the Rosary, during Adoration, in Sacred Art, Sacred Music, and the Holy Bible. Yes, although it's been said many times, many ways: keep stepping out for Christ and He will keep leaping over you!