



1903-2018

✠ A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR ✠

25 DECEMBER 2018



OUR HOLY REDEEMER ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
37 SOUTH OCEAN AVENUE
FREEPORT, NEW YORK 11520
(516) 378-0665



Dear Parishioner,

Silver bells. Silver bells. It's Christmas time in the city, and in Freeport it's time to say:

*"Thank You God for **taking flesh and dwelling amongst us!** (cf. Saint John I:14) Your **one giant leap** into our world has inspired millions of people throughout the centuries to take **many small steps** for YOU! *Saint Joseph, after the decree went out from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled, took those many small steps from Galilee from the town of Nazareth to Judea, to the city of David that is called Bethlehem to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with Child (cf. Saint Luke II:1-5). Shepherds living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock after the Angel of the Lord appeared to them took those many small steps to Bethlehem and found Mary and Saint Joseph, and the Infant lying in the manger (cf. Saint Luke II:8-16). Magi from the east, after seeing His star at its rising took those many small steps and arrived in Jerusalem to do Him homage (cf. Saint Matthew II:1-2).**

Long after the Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us in the inspired pages of the Holy Bible, God's giant leap continues to inspire small steps; small steps that in 1903, led ordinary people of faith living in Freeport, New York, to request permission to establish a Parish where they could celebrate and recount that giant leap for others; small steps that (with "permission granted" and a Parish officially established on 3 February 1903) led those same ordinary people of faith to build a church and bring a Bishop *home* to consecrate it at Holy Mass on 11 June 1911: Easter Sunday!

The many small steps inspired by God's giant leap are not restricted to a place, or a century. They can be witnessed anywhere and anytime people *walk/step by faith*: even right here in Freeport where as recently as 25 November 2018, over five hundred Sunday Mass-goers at Our Holy Redeemer committed themselves to increasing their weekly financial gift to their Parish AND (at that same time) over one hundred and fifty of those Sunday Mass-goers, asked to become members of our Parish!!!

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!

All for the Greater Glory of God,

Rev. Father Douglas R. Arcoleo
Pastor