

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We gather this weekend, just a few days after the Nativity of the Lord to celebrate another important feast and that is the feast of the Holy Family. This celebration gives us the opportunity to not only celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, but we also can celebrate our birth families and our Church family.

Each of these three families that we celebrate are truly brought together as one through the birth of the Christ Child. Jesus was brought forth into our world so that He can be the light, the light that sets us free, the light that leads us back to our Father in Heaven.

Our light alone, is not enough to illuminate our paths. We need the light of the Holy Family, our blood families and our Church family. When we all come together as the body of Christ, our light shines brightly and we can see more clearly, the path laid out before us.

Next weekend, here at St. Francis, as we gather for the feast of the Epiphany, we will have the opportunity to reflect upon how we will participate as members of the St. Francis family in 2018.

Included in the bulletin as an insert this week, and one that will be handed out next weekend is a form that I will ask each family to fill out. It will be an opportunity for us as a parish to make sure that we have your updated and current mailing address, phone number, email and so on. There will also be places to show where you want to commit to pray, serve and financially support the parish in 2018. Please be sure to look this form over and fill it out. I will talk about this more on the weekend of January 6 & 7.

I hope that each of you had a blessed Christmas and that you will continued to be filled with Christ's Love and Joy as we celebrate these holy days of Christmas!

In Christ's Love,

Fr. James