



Christmas, 2017

Dear Friends,

One of our great family rituals of late November/early December was decorating the house with lights. The process involved three steps: 1) clean windows (inside and out), 2) get out the ladders, and 3) wait until the coldest day and the last possible minute before my Mom would pull her hair out. Then, all bundled up and unable to move, my father and us boys would go outside, try to untangle the lights, get the broken ones to work and keep from falling off the ladder. It was family comedy at its best! But, when we finished, the lighted house proclaimed the brightness of Christmas in the midst of winter's darkness. Drawn to enter the house by its bright glow, our family knew we could celebrate Christmas!

Unfortunately, as we got older and moved away, decorating our house with lights became impractical. But I still marvel at those brave families who take time to brighten their homes when celebrating Christmas. When Christmas comes to those homes, a feeling of joy in welcoming Christ, the Light of the World, takes place. In a large sense, the Light of Christ symbolized by our decorations also beckons us to share the joy of Christ's birth by lives which glow with generosity, hope and goodness.

The Advent and Christmas seasons help us celebrate the Light of Christ. My prayer as we approach Christmas is that the Light of Christ shines so brightly in us that we might entice ourselves and other to draw near to Christ's Light in our prayers, and with acts of charity to those in need. May the gifts you share- with Holy Family, with your loved ones, with those in need – be as the strings of lights once were for our home, an invitation to celebrate Christ's birth.

Christmas Blessings,

Fr Mike

Rev. Michael Gabriel

Holy Family Parish invites you to visit our new website at www.holyfamilychicago.org. Here you can find news and parish events, access our calendar and bulletins and read stories of our past and plans for our future. View pictures from 160 years past and from 2017. Get to know our staff and some of the diverse group of people who come from near and far to worship and be a part of Holy Family. And, after you visit our website, please know that you are always welcome to visit in person –we would love to see you.

“Our Doors Are Open Wide”