

Christ Child Catholic Church
***Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service***

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**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,
MARY, AND JOSEPH**
December 31, 2017

Message of His Holiness Pope **Francis** for
the celebration of the **51st World Day of
Peace**

January 1, 2018

**Migrants and refugees: men and women in
search of peace**

Heartfelt good wishes for peace. Un deseo de paz. Friedenswunsch. Augurio di pace. Peace to all people and to all nations on earth! Peace, which the angels proclaimed to the shepherds on Christmas night, is a profound aspiration for everyone, for each individual and all peoples, and especially for those who most keenly suffer its absence. Among these whom I constantly keep in my thoughts and prayers, I would once mention the over 250 million migrants worldwide, of whom 22.5 million are refugees. Pope Benedict XVI, my beloved predecessor, spoke of them as “men and women, children, young and elderly people, who are searching for somewhere to live in peace.” In order to find peace, they are willing to risk their lives on a journey that is often long and perilous,

to endure hardships and suffering, and to encounter fences and walls built to keep them far from their goal.

In a spirit of compassion, let us embrace all those fleeing from war and hunger, or forced by discrimination, persecution, poverty and environmental degradation to leave their homelands.

We know that it is not enough to open our hearts to the suffering of others. Much more remains to be done before our brothers and sisters can once again live peacefully in a safe home. Welcoming others requires concrete commitment, a network of assistance and goodwill, vigilant and sympathetic attention, the responsible management of new and complex situations that at times compound numerous existing problems, to say nothing of resources, which are always limited...

Four mileposts for action

Offering asylum seekers, refugees, migrants and victims of human trafficking an opportunity to find the peace they seek requires a strategy combining four actions: welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating.

“Welcoming” calls for expanding legal pathways for entry and no longer pushing migrants and displaced people towards countries where they face persecution and violence. It also demands balancing our concerns about national security with a concern for fundamental human rights. Scripture reminds us: “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.”

“Protecting” has to do with our duty to recognize and defend the inviolable dignity of those who flee real dangers in search of asylum and security, and to prevent their

being exploited. I think in particular of women and children who find themselves in situations that expose them to risks and abuse that can even amount to enslavement. God does not discriminate: “The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the orphan and the widow.”

“Promoting” entails supporting the integral human development of migrants and refugees. Among many possible means of doing so, I would stress the importance of ensuring access to all levels of education for children and young people... The Bible teaches that God “loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.” “Integrating,” lastly, means allowing refugees and migrants to participate fully in the life of the society that welcomes them, as part of a process of mutual enrichment and fruitful cooperation in service of the integral human development of the local community. Saint Paul expresses it in these words: “You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people.” Memorial of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Patroness of Migrants.

Francis.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By request or appointment

BAPTISMS & WEDDINGS:

Call the office for an appointment

Anointing of the Sick

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually by appointment

For Pregnancy Support:

Birthing 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

Prayer Group in the Parish

Every Tuesday at 8:15 a.m. All Women and All Men.

MASS INTENTIONS December 30 – Jan 5

Saturday 5:00 p.m. + Sylvia Muzzio

Sunday 10:00 a.m. Parishioners

Monday 10:00 a.m. For All the Families

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. Murphy-Dwyer Family

Thursday 9:00 a.m. The Boisvert Family

Friday 8:00 a.m. Murphy-Dwyer Family

Stewardship of Treasury

Dec 23 & 24, 2017 – Collections \$ 1,295.00

Dec 24 & 25, 2017 - Christmas Collections

Total \$2,889.00

Thank you and God bless your generosity!

We Need Your Support

The 2018 Collection Envelopes are in the entrance to the CHURCH.

Please pick up your box if you had one for last year. **God bless you, Fr. Eugenio**

**MAY THE BLESSINGS OF CHRISTMAS BE
WITH YOU TODAY AND THROUGHOUT THE
NEW YEAR – 2018 –**

Check out our Website

we would like to invite and encourage everyone to take a look at our Parish website at

www.christchild.org

Information about parish ministries, helpful links and calendars are available on this site.

Men’s Club Meeting

Our next meeting and dinner will be at 6:30 PM. on Wednesday January 10, 2018

“**Together, supporting each other, we can do great things!**”

Women’s Club/Prayer Group

We meet 4th Wednesday of each month, January 24th 2018 from 1 to 2:30 pm. Our focus is social and spiritual at the same time.

Please contact Ruth McCormick

ruthmcc@flash.net