

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

We come to the last day of the year and the threshold of a new year. This Sunday happens to be both the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph and it is New Year's Eve, of course.

One of the reasons that the ancient Romans chose the name January for the month was because it comes from the word for door. Also, in Greek mythology, Janus was the god (small g) who watched the gate or door. There was a sense that the first month of the year is a time for looking forward and backward at the same time.

In a real sense, it seems that is what we do even in the present age. When it comes to New Year's Eve and New Year's Day, many people think of the year (or years) past and the year about to begin. Hopefully, we have many more joyful memories of the year(s) past and we ask the Lord for blessings in the year about to begin.

As I mentioned, this Sunday is also a time to think of the Holy Family, remember their example and allow them to inspire us. We seek their intercession and Jesus' blessing as well.

This weekend is similar to last Sunday inasmuch as the last Mass this Sunday is the Vigil of another Solemnity - - of Mary, the Mother of God. This week we do not have to think so much in terms of a double obligation because January 1st is not a day of obligation this year. It is still a holy day though and it would be wonderful to start the New Year off by raising our minds and hearts to God at Mass in church. In any case, this Sunday is the only day of obligation this week but it is always a blessing when we come to Mass less out of obligation and more out of love and devotion for God. That is a great way to begin a New Year!

Blessed New Year 2018 everyone!

Sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Giandurco