



From the Pastor's Desk...

Christmas 2011

***D**ear Parents,*

Christmas is a time to look back to the day, 2011 years ago when heaven came down to earth in the person of Jesus so that all of us could go back to heaven with Him. We look forward to the day when the promise of Christmas will be fulfilled, when shattered dreams and unfulfilled expectations will be erased, and when peace, joy and love will replace war, hatred and despair.

In the meantime, inspired the Holy Spirit, we reach out to others in imitation of Jesus. We participated in the "Giving Basket Program," the Coat Drive, the Lend a Helping Hand Toy Drive, the Penny Drive for the Seton Foundation, and the Food Drive for the needy families. Jesus gave Himself to us and He asks that we give ourselves to others.

It is what St. Nicholas and many other saints have done throughout the ages, and what we at OLSS try to do every year. We celebrate Christmas for the second time in our new church, the brightest and most beautiful in Staten Island. We prepared by having Reconciliation Day on Monday, December 19th, with confessions from 2 to 8PM, so that we could be spiritually ready for Christ's birth. We continued that preparation with the Healing Mass on Tuesday, December 20th at 8PM, so that the power of Christ's coming may be manifested in our lives. And then, we gather this weekend as one big church family to celebrate the birth of our Brother and Lord, Jesus, the greatest Gift our Father has ever given us, the Gift that He continues to give us in the Eucharist and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

We thank God for all the blessings He has sent us in Christ throughout 2011 and we pray for God's peace and blessings, health and happiness at Christmas, 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey P. Conway". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "y".

*Msgr. Jeff Conway
Pastor*