



CHURCH OF ST. URIEL THE ARCHANGEL

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COMMUNIO ✚ COMMUNIO ✚ COMMUNIO ✚ COMMUNIO

bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Eph. 4:2-3)

December 1, being the feast of bl. Nicholas Ferrar, Deacon, 1637

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

As I write this Christmas epistle to all of you, we have just entered into the Church's season of Advent. As our new liturgical year unfolds, we are filled with joy and great expectations at the prospect of the Church's new year. Thus, season of Advent resounds with the sounds of great joy.

"Today a light will shine upon us, for the Lord is born for us; and he will be called Wondrous God, Prince of Peace, and Father of future ages: and his reign will be without end." (Is. 9:1, 5 and Lk. 1:33) With these words the Sacred Liturgy announces the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ on Christmas Day. It is truly a joyous day in which we join Christians all over the world in welcoming into our hearts the King and Ruler of all creation born of the Blessed Virgin Mary. I hope this Christmas finds you and your family in good health and grace.

I am excited about the work St. Uriel's has been able to accomplish over this past year. The generosity of the people of the parish appears to know no bounds. We continue to be the beneficiaries of great blessings and favors from God, we recognize that it is our duty to return that love to our brothers and sisters in need. Thus, our outreach ministry continues to amaze me. You can visit our webpage to see all the outreach projects we continue to be involved in. We also continue to support missionaries in the field.

Christian formation continues to be very strong. In the Spring we completed our 11 week course on the Book of Revelation. This Fall we completed our 11 week course on the Prophets, God's Messengers of Mercy. Add to that the parish retreat, Adult Forums and our Lenten and Advent Quiet Days. Weekly electronic newsletters have been filled with teachings as is our parish website.

As for the upkeep of the Church grounds, we have restored the reredos; the paintings of the four Archangels. At the writing of this letter, a new handicap entrance is under construction. In regard to cutting down energy costs, we have made major upgrades to the Church plant and Rectory.

Celebrating the Nativity of the Lord Jesus gives us the opportunity to once again return to the true spirit and joy of this blessed season. The real danger for us today is to get too caught up into the commercialized holiday that we end up forgetting the heart of what we celebrate. The great sin today in our culture is the sin of complacency and indifference. Our culture is satisfied with stripping this holy season of Jesus Christ. As followers of the Lord Jesus, we must fight against the temptation and keep Christ as the center of our celebrations. We must be witnesses of the Lord Jesus, reminding all our neighbors and friends to this great event that has taken place 2,000 years ago, the Incarnation of the Lord.

Seek to avoid the sin of our time, that of materialism and indulgence. Instead, seek to make this a season of faith and charity, announcing to the world the great love and mercy of God. Only when we do this will be able to rediscover true spirit of Christmas.

As you gather with your family and friends, consider the lights of the Christmas tree and those lights outside of your home. Let them be a symbol to you of Jesus Christ, who is the "Light of the World". Allow the light of Christ to penetrate deep into your hearts and souls so that the rediscovering of your faith, renewing your commitment to Him, and reliving

the mysteries we celebrate, you will truly have a Blessed and Merry Christmas.

May our Lord and His most Blessed Mother grant you the joy and peace of this holy season and keep you and your loved ones safe. On behalf of Cynthia and my family, the priests, our deacon, and lay staff of the parish, I would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas. Thank you for all your love and support during my 12 years as your Rector. May this be a time of great joy for all of you and your families.

Yours in the Incarnate Lord,
Fr. Russell A. Griffin, SSC
Rector

Immaculate Conception

Thursday – December 8
9:30AM **Mass** [Lady Chapel]

Third Sunday of Advent

5PM Saturday – December 10
Contemporary **Mass**
Sunday – December 11
8AM and 9:30AM **Mass**

St. Thomas the Apostle and Martyr

Wednesday – December 21
9:30AM **Mass** [High Altar]
Priestly Anniversary Ordinations of:
Fathers Crothers, SSC, Myers, SSC, Griffin, SSC

Confessions: As scheduled or contact Fr. Griffin for appointment.

CHRISTMAS LITURGIES

Christmas Eve

Saturday - December 24
5PM **Mass**

Christmas Day

Sunday - December 25
10AM **Mass**

THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Monday – December 26
9:30AM **Mass** (High Altar)

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist

Tuesday – December 27
9:30AM **Mass**

Holy Innocents

Wednesday – December 28
9AM Holy Rosary, 9:30AM **Mass** (High Altar)

The Holy Name of Jesus

The Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

Sunday - January 1, 2017
8:00am **Mass**
9:30AM **Mass** (High Altar)

The Feast of the Epiphany

Friday - January 6, 2017
9:30AM **Mass** (High Altar)

Baptism of our Lord

Sunday - January 8, 2017
8AM and 9:30AM **Mass**

Annual Parish Meeting

Monday, January 23, 2017
6PM **Mass** and 7PM Meeting

Christmas Flowers

In order to have the names of loved ones included on the memorial list, please have flower memorials to St. Uriel's by Monday, December 19th.