

*Dear Parishioners,*

*The priests and staff of Ascension wish you and your loved ones  
a very happy and holy Christmas!*

*We welcome you all to our celebration of **Christmas 2018** here at Ascension.*

*We especially welcome those who have been away from Ascension due to  
school, illness or living elsewhere for whatever reason.*

*It is good to have you home again. Welcome to all visitors.*

*Thank you for choosing to celebrate your Christmas with us.*

*Christmas is a wonderful and holy time of year.*

*It is when we become more aware of the many gifts God gives us  
at Christmas and all throughout the year – the gift of life, the gift of faith,  
and the gift of each other. On Christmas God showed us  
how deeply he loved us by taking on flesh and becoming one like us,  
so that we could become more like Him.*

*During this Christmas Season, which continues  
until the **Baptism of the Lord** on Sunday, January 13th,  
we will also celebrate other important feast days in the life of the Church.*

*We will observe the **Feast of the Holy Family** on December 30th  
with the Blessing of Families at Masses at 5:30pm on Saturday,  
and 7:30am, 9:30am, and 11:30am on Sunday.*

*Then for New Year's Day, January 1st, we will celebrate the  
**Solemnity of Mary Mother of God**, a Holy Day of Obligation, with Masses  
at 5:30pm on Monday, and 8:30am and 10:30am on Tuesday.*

*On January 6th we celebrate the **Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord**  
with a special blessing of children at all Masses that weekend.*

*I encourage you to immerse yourself in the spirit and graces of the season  
by participating in the special celebrations  
and ask that you bring someone you love with you.*

*My prayer is that Christ, whose birth we now celebrate,  
may dwell in your hearts and in your homes throughout this season of joy.*

***Merry Christmas!***