



# IMMACULATE HEART<sup>OF</sup> MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

## A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

DECEMBER 25, 2017

Dear friends in the Word Made Flesh,

Today we emerge from the darkest season of the year. The December days had become shorter and shorter, and the nights colder. For some, Advent was a time to hibernate with comfort food and sleep. For others it was a time of resistance—fighting melancholy, colds or crowded roads. For the very young and young at heart, it was a season of anticipation—waiting for carols, Christmas trees and gifts. For us all, December has been a month of concern for a broken and violent world.

Today, into this Isaiah-like “land of gloom” we experience Radiant Light! “For a child is born to us” and life will never be the same. The forests exult, the seas resound and the plains sing for joy. And we? We once again know the rush of light, the surge of joy, the promise of peace. Jesus, the Light of the World, shines brightly.

I pray that the Child of Bethlehem will be born again in you and will bless you with that same light—light to illumine your mind, to brighten your heart and to bathe our world once again in justice, love and peace.

Merry Christmas!