St. Barnabas
A Catholic Community in Bellmore, New York
Since 1912

www.stbarnabasny.org
Find us on Facebook

Masses
Monday to Friday: 6:30 and 9:00 AM
Saturday: 8:00 AM
See the Bulletin for the Holy Day Schedule
Saturday Vigil: 5:00 and 7:30 PM
Sunday: 7:00, 9:00, 10:30 AM, 12:00 Noon and 5:00 PM
10.15 AM Holy Family Chapel

The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second, third and fourth Sundays of the month. The Pre-Baptism Class is held in the Church on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. Please contact the rectory for an appointment with a priest.
The Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated on Saturday from 12:30 to 1:30 PM or by appointment with a priest.
For the Sacrament of Matrimony contact the rectory for an appointment with a priest.
The Sacrament of the Sick is celebrated on the fourth Saturday of every month following the 8:00 AM Mass. To arrange a visit to a sick person by a priest, contact the rectory.

Rev. Adrian McHugh, Pastor
Rev. Charles Omotu
Rev. Francis Agyeman
Deacon Bernard F. Sherlock
Deacon Richard E. Iandoli

Rectory Office
2320 Bedford Avenue,
Bellmore, NY 11710
516-785-0054  Fax: 516-221-7789
Monday - Thursday: 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM;
Friday: 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM;
(Closed Weekdays: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM)
Saturday & Sunday: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Emergency Only: 516-280-0359

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School
Principal, Ms. Leeann Graziose
516-785-5709

St. Barnabas Christian Formation
Mrs. Marjorie Lampert
516-785-0130

Social Ministry
Mrs. Alice Witt
516-785-6243

Music Ministry
Mr. William R. Dione

Youth Ministry
Mrs. Margaret Harnisch

Pastoral Care
Sister William Noreen Reilly, S.C.

Business & Personnel Manager
Mr. John G. Nappi
Monday, December 21
6:30 AM  Charlie & Ann Klika
9:00 AM  Intentions of the 8:15 Rosary Group
         Deceased Members of the Donnelly, Stauber & Lewis Families
         Louis Grandwilliams  Anna Byrnes
         John Hodgkiss  Edward Johnson

Tuesday, December 22
6:30 AM  Irene Strasser
9:00 AM  Living & Deceased Members of the Stauber, Donnelly & Lewis Families

Wednesday, December 23
6:30 AM  Irene Roskop & Elizabeth Smith
9:00 AM  Agnes Schmitt & Theresa Kenny

Thursday, December 24
Fr. Charles  6:30 AM  Charlie & Ann Klika
Fr. Adrian  9:00 AM  Pauline Jennings
Fr. Adrian  4:00 PM  Armando Forte
Fr. Joe C.  4:00 PM  (HFC) Edward Patrick Nallan
Fr. Francis  6:00 PM  Eileen Balke
Fr. Adrian  10:00 PM  Toni Rabbito
Fr. Charles  12:00 AM  Geraldine Daubman

Friday, December 25  The Nativity of the Lord
Fr. Francis  7:00 AM  Patricia & Tom Fenton
Fr. Adrian  9:00 AM  Teresa Hennessy Scarcella
Fr. Charles  10:30 AM  Brian Dione
Fr. Francis  12:00 PM  Anne & Vincent Buonocore

Saturday, December 26  St. Stephen
Fr. Adrian  8:00 AM  Arlene Clifford
Fr. Charles  5:00 PM  Frank Tocco  Efren Cintron
         Raymond Vogts  Louise Sweeney
         Ann O’Neill  Ralph Wilson
         Madeline Buglione
Fr. Francis  7:30 PM

Sunday, December 27  The Holy Family
Fr. Charles  7:00 AM  Joseph Mammone
Fr. Adrian  9:00 AM  Kevin Rose
Fr. Charles  10:15 AM  Salvatore “Carl” Nobile
Fr. Francis  10:30 AM  Adeline & Peter Villella, Jr.
Fr. Adrian  12:00 PM  For the People of Our Parish
Fr. Francis  5:00 PM  Steve Tarpinian

We pray for our recently deceased
Patricia F. Hettrich
Patricia Dolson
Charles J. Liggio
And for all those who have died this year.
May they rest in peace

Bread & Wine
The Eucharistic Bread & Wine is offered in memory of Rita Campanella from the Valentino Family.

Sanctuary Lamp
The Sanctuary Lamp Candle will be lit this week in memory of Dorothy Camilleri.

Advent Candles
The Advent Candle for the Fourth week of Advent will be lit in memory of Stephen Andrew Clifford.

Poinsettias
Remember your loved ones by having Poinsettias placed on the Sanctuary. The offering is $15.00. Contact the rectory or pick up a Flower Offering envelope in the Church.

Christmas Candles
The red Christmas Candles will be lit in loving memory of: Brian Dione, Josephine, Edwin & Robert Rezny, Dorothy Camilleri, Rita & Frank Mistretta
Children’s Liturgy During The Year

The mission of the Family Liturgy Ministry is to encourage the children and families of the parish to become more involved and actively participate in the mass. The ministry is an integral part of the St. Barnabas Family Mass, which is celebrated at 10:15 every Sunday, September through June in the Holy Family Chapel. The ministry encourages children to participate in the entrance and offertory processions, become lead and junior lectors, sing in the choir, and participate in other special activities such as lighting the advent wreath, placing ornaments on the Jesse Tree, The Story of the First Christmas and The Story of Easter plays, as well as the Palm Cross workshop, Breakfast with the Bunny, and many other activities. The Ministry also encourages fellowship between parishioners and sponsors monthly Agape feasts after mass on the last Sunday of each month when parishioners can catch up with old friends and become acquainted with new faces. The ministry focuses on developing and maintaining a prayerful attitude in the Holy Family Chapel – with the motto “Listen, pray, respect, and reflect”. We listen to the words of the Priest during mass, we pray together as a faith filled community, we respect the chapel – it is God’s house, and we reflect on the mass. Why not join 10:15 Mass and join our Family!

Christmas Eve
Children’s Mass

We invite children ages 3 and up to attend the 4:00 PM Mass in the Upper Church dressed as angels, shepherds and townspeople.

Join in the entrance procession and then be seated with your family. Children who participated in the Story of the First Christmas may use the St. Barnabas costume assigned to them for the play. Meet in Sacristy of the Holy Family Chapel, before Mass.

If you have questions call the rectory or email Lyn Politi at: Stbarnabasfamilyliturgy@gmail.

Christmas Mass Schedule

Thursday, December 24th, Christmas Eve
4:00 PM, 6:00 PM, 10:00 PM & Midnight
(The 4:00 PM Mass will be celebrated in both the Church and the Holy Family Chapel. As these Masses are crowded, please do not reserve seats for others.)

Friday, December 25th, Christmas Day
7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM & 12 Noon

Thursday, December 31st, New Year’s Eve
Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, 5:00 PM

Friday, January 1st Mass, New Year’s Day
6:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12 Noon.
(This is a Holy Day of Obligation)
On this last Sunday of Advent, on the eve of our Lord’s birthday, the Church focuses on Mary. Many of you recognize today’s gospel scene as the joyful mystery the ‘Visitation. Two peasant women who journeyed on foot to be together to share their joy and their dreams. Two women, in a kind of mid-embrace - rejoicing, dancing and singing for what God has done for them.

There are several new mothers in our community. I met some of them in preparation for their child’s baptism. Like Mary and Elizabeth they speak about the joy of the miracle of it all and the feeling of trepidation of being the parent of a newborn. What impact will this new baby have on their marriage, on the family and on the older brothers and sisters? I remember when my sister-in-law was expecting her third child, I asked the older two if they were looking forward to a new brother or sister. One said an emphatic ‘No ..’ ‘Why?’ I asked. ‘Because’ she said ‘there will be less room on Mom’s knee!’ How true. When a new baby arrives into this crowded place, things change - everyone has to move over a little to make room.

It’s the same with the birth of the Christ-child. We need to change to make room for Him in our lives. In the various nativity plays and carol services I attended in the school and parish—we were reminded in a powerful way by children dressed as Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Zechariah, angels, shepherds, townspeople and soldiers - that his birth changes us and the world. Their productions brought together Moms, Dads, grandparents and siblings to stop being busy and just be together around the Christ child and be with each other.

At Christmas, we make that special effort – as members of the same family and as inheritors of Christmas past - to be together. It’s a time for priorities, a time for home and a time for Church.

I hope there is not a child in the parish who doesn’t love Christmas because Christmas for a child is a winter paradise where kindness and goodness reign. For children it is an experience of glitter and magic and being together that will lodge in the memory for the rest of their lives. In a survey done of fifteen thousand children, the question was asked, "What do you think makes a happy family?" When the children answered, they did not list a big house or fancy car or new video games as the source of happiness. The most frequently given answer was ‘doing things together.’

We do it all because we believe Christmas holds truths and promises well worth passing on.
Financial Reports

**Weekend Collections**
Parish Families Registered 5,018
# Envelopes Mailed 1,454
# Envelopes Used 631
# Envelopes (12/14/14) 650

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**2015 Catholic Ministries Appeal**
Goal Amount: $109,100.00
Total Pledged: $123,673.00
Total Received: $120,483.00
Total # of Donors: 556

The Week at a Glance

**Sunday:**
1:30 PM Baptisms, Church
7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting, School Cafeteria

**Monday:**
7:00 PM St. Vincent de Paul Meeting, Rectory Meeting Room
8:00 PM Charismatic Prayer Group, Holy Family Chapel

**Tuesday:**
7:00 PM Family Music Practice, Holy Family Chapel
7:00 PM Bereavement Group, Rectory Meeting Room

**Wednesday:**
7:00 PM RCIA Meeting, Convent Meeting Room
7:30 PM Al-Anon Meeting, Rectory Meeting Room
8:00 PM Choir Rehearsal, Church

**Saturday:**
8:00 AM Anointing of the Sick following Mass, Church
12:30 PM Reconciliation, Church

Mass Times
Parishioners have asked to change the time of the 5.00 pm Mass on Saturday evening to 4.30 PM and the 7.30PM Mass to 7.00 PM. Those who attend these Masses on Saturday 19th, will be asked to vote on these changes.

Rectory Office
The rectory office will close at 12:30 PM on Christmas Eve and be closed on Christmas Day in observance of Christmas. The office will open at 9:00 AM Saturday, December 26th.

Christmas Wafers
In some traditions a blessed wafer is shared among families at the beginning of the Christmas meal at to recall the real “Bread of Life” who came among us over 2,000 years ago. The blessed wafers are available at the rectory, your free will offering will be donated to Parish Social Ministry.
HEAP, a low-income, federally-funded energy assistance program, is open and should close by March. For eligibility guidelines visit http://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/. Applications can be made online at https://www.mybenefits.ny.gov/ or senior citizens can call the Office of the Aging at 227-7386. All others call EAC in Nassau at 565-4327. SNAP/TA recipients should be automatically enrolled. For more information call Parish Social Ministry at 785-6243.

We would like to form a Respect Life Group in the parish. If you are interested please contact Vin Murray at 382-7200. The Right to Life March in Washington is on 1/22/16, Contact Vin Murray if interested.

Please remember when you are doing your Christmas baking that St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Regional School collects Box Tops for Education. Simply snip the “Box Tops” off the package and bring them to the rectory for forwarding over to the school.

Al-Anon meets every Wednesday at 7:30 PM in the Rectory Meeting Room and every Sunday at 7:30 PM in the school cafeteria.

This course is DMV approved for insurance and point reduction. This cost for the course is $45.00. Please call (631)360-9720 for additional information and to register.

St. Paul the Apostle Church, Brookville. Saturday, January 16th; 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM. A day of prayer, handicrafts, games. Contact the Catholic Scouting Office at 678-5800 ext. 245 or e-mail scouting@drvc.org.
It’s hard to convince your children that the Church is important when you are negligent about attending Mass and supporting its work.

It’s hard to convince your children that the Church is to be taken seriously when you insist that they do their homework for school but permit them to neglect religious education.

It’s hard to convince your children that they should respect the Church when you continually criticize the leadership and appear a habitual faultfinder.

It’s hard to convince your children the work of the Church is important, when you have no part in what work is being done, either financially or personally.

It’s hard to convince your children sin is a serious matter when they know you do things that are wrong, and you are not concerned about making the necessary corrections in life.

It’s hard to convince there is really a heaven, and a hell, whey they realize that this life is the most important thing there is to you, and they don’t see you making much preparation for a life after death.

It’s hard to convince your children, when you don’t even try to convince them of much of anything - just let them do their thing.
Hi everyone!
This is the page for St Barnabas Life Teen. I’m Peggy Harnisch your youth minister!!

Hi Everyone,

We’re on our last week of Advent. This final week is like getting our home ready for Christmas. It’s time to do all the little things and finish preparing for Jesus. Then at the end of the week - the waiting is over!

We have prepared and waited and it’s time to celebrate the birth of our Savior Jesus! What does that mean for us now and in the next year? Can the joy of today keep us going? We can and should live all year as people who have seen the birth of a Savior, because we have and we celebrate this amazing birth each year. If we took this peace and joy with us to our schools, jobs and families I think the whole world would be a better place.

The Youth Ministry Core Team, teen leaders, students, and I wish everyone a blessed final week of Advent and a wonderful Christmas!

Peggy

Let's start the new year off together!!

Friday January 8th, 2016 we’ll be having a gym hang out night! We’ll have games going on in the gym, more games in the cafeteria and end up with pizza! This is open to everyone in grades 6th, 7th and 8th! We also need high school aged kids to help run this night. This is a great opportunity for service.

Time: 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM for middle school kids
6:30 PM for high school kids and adult core to have time to set up. Bring friends or come by yourself and make friends! This is open to all teens!

Email Peggy with any questions. We hope to see you here!!

If you are an adult who might enjoy working with teens, maybe you would like to be a part of our Core team!
Email Peggy for information!! We need you!
stbarnabasyouthministry@gmail.com
The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

22 members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.

The choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be “What is Hell?” Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The music for today’s service was all composed by George Friedrich Handel in celebration of the 300th anniversary of his birth.

Today’s Sermon: How Much Can a Man Drink? with hymns from a full choir.

Hymn: “I Love Thee My Ford.”

Miss Charlene Mason sang “I will not pass this way again” giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Women’s Luncheon: Each member bring a sandwich. Polly Phillips will give the medication.

Announcement in the church bulletin for a National PRAYER & FASTING conference: “The cost for attending the Fasting and Prayer conference includes meals.”

The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.

Ushers will eat latecomers.

Tuesday at 4PM there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

Potluck supper: prayer & medication to follow

US Army:

National Guard:

US Navy:

US Marines:

US Air Force:
Col. George E. Loughran, Capt. McLean G. Bethea, Nicholas P. Wright, Rev. Major Timothy Hirten

US Merchant Marine:
Lt. J.G. Eric Stumpel.

US Coast Guard:
Ensign Robert M. Scaduto, Jr.
The students, teachers & staff of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School wish everyone a

Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!

May your holidays be happy days,
Filled with love and laughter.
And may each day bring joy your way in the year that follows after!
Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet, on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on the world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which he blesses the world.
Yours are the hands.
Yours are the feet.
Yours are the eyes.
You are his Body.
(St. Teresa of Avila)

The Religious Education Program is in need of Adult volunteers to assist as Hall Monitors and Substitute Catechists. We have been having difficulty finding adults to substitute when a catechist cannot come in. Please consider helping!

Please find us on Facebook at St. Barnabas Religious Education.

We have several First Holy Communion Dresses that were donated; many of them are brand new with the tags still on. We also have a few boys’ suits that were worn once that have been donated. If you are interested in looking at the dresses or suits contact the Office of Christian Formation at 785-0130.

There are a few sweatshirts, jackets and miscellaneous items that are in our lost and found in the Religious Education Room in the school building. Please check when you bring your child to religious education class.

Important Dates

Monday, December 21 through December 31st – NO CLASSES

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS! Classes resume Monday, January 4th.

Tuesday, January 5th: Level 2 Parent Meeting – 10:00 AM OR 7:00 PM in the Holy Family Chapel – theme of this meeting is your child’s First Reconciliation.

Saturday, January 9th: Level 2 First Reconciliation – you should have received a letter with information on your child’s reconciliation.

Please remember to check the Religious Education grade level calendars as well as the website to keep informed of dates of classes, as well as when classes are not in session, homework assignments, and requirements.
What is a Jubilee Year?
According to the Holy See, the origin of the Christian Jubilee goes back to Old Testament times. The Law of Moses prescribed a special year for the Jewish people (Lev 25:10-14). The trumpet with which this particular year was announced was a goat's horn, called Yobel in Hebrew, and the origin of the word "jubilee." The celebration of this year also included the restitution of land to the original owners, the remission of debts, the liberation of slaves, and "rest" for the land, which was left fallow. In the New Testament, Jesus presents himself as the One who brings the old Jubilee to completion, because he has come to "preach the year of the Lord's favor" (Lk 4:18-19; see also Is 61:1-2).

In the Roman Catholic tradition, a Holy Year or Jubilee is a great religious event, held roughly every 25 years, for the forgiveness of sins and the punishment due to sin. The Christian Jubilee tradition began with Pope Boniface VIII in 1300. Since that time, the Church has celebrated 26 ordinary and three extraordinary Jubilee Years. A Jubilee is a year of reconciliation between adversaries, conversion, and a time to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Consequently, it is a time of solidarity, hope, justice, and commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters. A Jubilee Year is, above all, the year of Christ, who brings life and grace to humanity.

Why did Pope Francis call the Jubilee Year of Mercy?
On April 11, 2015, right before First Vespers of the Vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday, the Holy Father announced an historic event. For only the fourth time in Church history, there will be an extraordinary Jubilee Year — in this case, an extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. "Jesus Christ is the face of the Father's mercy," Pope Francis says in opening his papal bull Misericordiae Vultus (The Face of Mercy). In this light, "Merciful like the Father" is the motto he chose for the Jubilee Year. It comes from Luke 6:36, "Be merciful just as your Father is merciful."

The extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy runs from Dec. 8, 2015, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, to Nov. 20, 2016, the solemnity of Christ the King. By calling for the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis has underscored the signature message of his pontificate: mercy. Mercy is the Holy Father's answer to evil, following the teaching of St. John Paul II who, in his last book, Memory and Identity, wrote "[T]he limit imposed upon evil, of which man is both perpetrator and victim, is ultimately Divine Mercy." Pope Francis explained, "Here, then, is the reason for the Jubilee: because this is the time for mercy. It is the favorable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and to touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone the way of forgiveness and reconciliation."
In calling for the Jubilee Year, Pope Francis is encouraging the faithful to know God's mercy and to show mercy to our friends and neighbors (as well as our enemies!). To that end:

- Forgive those who have hurt you or have done you wrong. If possible, consider forgiving debts owed you.
- Go to Confession regularly — monthly or even weekly.
- Read and meditate on the Sacred Scriptures, especially the Gospel of Luke.
- Share the Good News of God's mercy through your words and good deeds.
- Make the Stations of the Cross regularly, especially at 3 p.m., the Hour of Great Mercy.
- Read Divine Mercy in My Soul — Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska.
- Resolve to learn more about some saints who are outstanding for receiving mercy or showing God's mercy to those around them.
- Go on a pilgrimage. Bishop Murphy officially designated the Cathedral of Saint Agnes as one of four places of pilgrimage in the Diocese of Rockville Centre during the Year of Mercy. The other places designated as places of pilgrimage are: The Basilica of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Southampton (168 Hill Street, Southampton). On Sunday, December 13th at 9:30 AM, Bishop Nelson Perez will celebrate Mass and open the Holy Door of Mercy at the Basilica. The Shrine of Our Lady of the Island, Eastport (258 Eastport Manor Road, Manorville). On Saturday, December 19th at 11:30 AM, Bishop Andrzej Zglejszewski will celebrate Mass and open the Holy Door of Mercy at the Shrine. The Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington (440 West Neck Road, Huntington). On Saturday, December 19th at 4:30 PM, Bishop Robert Brennan will celebrate Mass and open the Holy Door of Mercy at the Seminary. Each pilgrimage site will have a specific day each and every week during the Jubilee Year when priests and others will be available to receive pilgrims who come to enter through the Holy Door to confess their sins, pray before the Blessed Sacrament, join in devotions and receive the Lord’s blessing in Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

- Pray Pope Francis' Prayer for Mercy.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.
Christmas 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ,

*Christ is born: sing glory! Christ has descended from heaven: go out to meet Him!*
*Christ is on earth: lift yourselves up! Sing to the Lord, all the earth; for He who belongs to heaven is now on earth!*

With these words, the fourth century theologian, St Gregory Nazianzen (+389) proclaimed the Christmas message that is as true today as it was from that first moment in Bethlehem when the Blessed Mother Mary brought her son Jesus into the world. Since that night we, like Gregory and all others who know Jesus, have exulted in the gift of the Son of God made man. His birth heralds the defeat of sin and death. His presence among us, like us in all things but sin, shines the bright promise of God’s merciful love on our faces and into our hearts. Who does not rejoice to know that God so loved the world that He sent His Son? Which one of us would turn away from this blessed scene of the Virgin with Joseph in the Bethlehem stable offering the Child to us so that all humankind can be saved? How can we do anything but sing *Glory to God* with the angels and bend low in adoration with the shepherds. This night we all become free! This night we all are one. This night we see the salvation of our God.

My dear friends, this has not been an easy year for any of us, for our families, for our parishes, for our nation, for the world. The forces of darkness are strong and determined. Terrorism seems to be widening its sweep and too many of our leaders seem unsure of what must be done to protect society and care for the suffering. Too many families are struggling to make ends meet. Too many youth in our midst are led astray by the false gods of drugs, alcohol and momentary pleasures. Freedom is under attack at home and abroad. Many look in all the wrong places for answers that hurt rather than help.

We have the right answer. We all need Christmas. We all need Jesus. We all need Mary. God has given HIS answer to the world, an answer that overcomes all its tragedies and all its temptations. God’s response to our cries is clear and unequivocal: His Son! Yes: Jesus Christ, His Son! He is God’s answer to our cries. He is God’s gift for our lives. He breaks down the barriers, for the name of peace is Jesus Christ. He is Our Peace! And He and He alone can calm our fears, renew our strength, lift up our hearts and give joy to our lives!

Yes, my friends, this Christmas go out to meet Him; lift up your hearts; Sing for joy. For all humankind has seen the salvation of our God! A blessed and Joyous Christmas to you all!

Bishop of Rockville Centre