

Dear Friends in Christ,

I hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and I wish for you a most blessed and Happy New Year. Many thanks to our staff and all of our volunteers who gave of themselves so selflessly during the Advent/Christmas season. Your service and care for our community is so very deeply appreciated.

During this holy season, our parish lost a very dear friend and faithful servant. Our Facilities Manager, Dean Savelli, passed away over the New Year's weekend after a long, hard fought battle with lung cancer. Dean truly loved this community and used his gifts and talents in service of the Lord in maintaining our facilities and furthering the mission of our parish. His deep faith and loving spirit will be fondly remembered and deeply missed. Please remember Dean in your prayers, as well as his family and loved ones who grieve his passing.

As we close out the Christmas Season and walk into this New Year, let me share with you a reflection on the Epiphany that Archbishop Hunthausen sent to me on a Christmas card my first year of ordination. It spoke to me then and it still speaks to me today:

*If, as with Herod,  
we fill our lives with things,  
and again with things;  
and if we consider ourselves so important  
that we fill every moment of our lives with action –  
when will we have the time  
to make the long slow journey  
across the burning desert as did the magi?  
Or sit and watch the stars as did the shepherds?  
Or ponder in our hearts the coming of the child as did Mary?  
For each of us there is a desert to travel,  
a star to discover,  
and a being within ourselves  
to bring to life.*

Have a blessed and Happy New Year!



**Fr. Tom**  
**Pastor**