

## A BLESSING FOR THE CHRISTMAS MEAL

Leader 1

Blessed are you, Lord our God, who has gathered us together at this our Christmas feasting table.

Leader 2

Lord of all Gifts, Our home is filled with joy and great beauty on this feast of Christmas. We each come to this our Christmas feast with eagerness and a happy heart.

As a family, we thank you for the gifts of food upon this table, mindful that you, our God, make every day of the year a Christmas where we are gifted by you.

We thank you that we are together to share the happiness of this ancient Holy day. (We thank you for our guests, \_\_\_\_\_, who, by their being present in our home, have added to the brightness of our celebration.)

Leader 3

Lord of All Gifts, Holy Father of our Savior Jesus, with fullness of heart we now ask Your holy blessing upon our food, and upon our family (and honored guests who have Joined us for this great feast).

May Your blessing be upon us all, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

All Toast

Merry Christmas or a Blessed Christmas!

***¡ FELIZ NAVIDAD !***

Dear Friends,

Thanks for coming to our Christmas Mass and for celebrating, with us, the birthday of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is truly a wonderful time of the year and I hope and pray that you will enjoy our Liturgy, the singing of special hymns and a visit to our Nativity Scene in front of our altar. As a small boy, I was very moved, when my parents brought my brothers, sisters and myself up to see the statues of Mary, Joseph, the child Jesus and the animals in the manger in our parish Church. We prayed that the Holy Family would bless us with peace, joy, love and a Holy and Happy Christmas. I'm sure my parents asked Jesus to be with us during the coming year and be present in our hearts and home.

Like most people, I have had happy and sad Christmases over the years. Like all children, I enjoyed receiving presents from Santa Claus when I was very young and the delicious meals with my parents, brothers and sisters. Going to Christmas Mass in the snow, receiving Jesus in Holy Communion and hearing the choir sing the special hymns was a wonderful experience. I have spent two Christmases in hospitals; one was in the Mater Hospital in Dublin when I was seventeen years of age and the other was 18 years ago, at Santa Rosa Hospital in San Antonio, after my first open heart surgery. Two years later, I took a Sabbatical and despite the extremely cold weather in Ireland at that time, I enjoyed one of my happiest Christmases with my parents in their comfortable home. Most years, I'm able to join my sister Catherine, her husband Gilbert and their family in their home in San Antonio and I enjoy the food and seeing the young children being so excited about Santa, their presents and new clothes.

This is my 39th Christmas as a priest and I'm happy to be able to celebrate the Masses here at the parish where I have spent the past 15 very happy years. I want to sincerely thank our hard working staff, our dedicated Ministry Leaders and all our wonderful volunteers for all they do to make St. Peter parish one of the best in the Diocese. A special word of thanks goes to all who, week in and week out, give time, talent and treasure to God and our Church. May God reward you and your family for the sacrifices you make in helping to build up the Body of Christ.

In this Year of the Priest, I urge you to pray for all the priests who have served in this parish over the years and for Msgr. McGowan and myself who are here with you at this time. Please pray also for all the priests of our Diocese and especially for Bishop Carmody who will be retiring during 2010. I want to sincerely thank Msgr. McGowan for his willingness to come to our parish each weekend to celebrate three Masses for our people and hear Confessions. We are also blessed in having Deacons Al, Richard and Teo and I am very grateful to them for all they have contributed to our parish since their ordinations a little over a year ago. On a personal note I want to sincerely thank you for your prayers, concern, affirmation, support, gifts, cards and good wishes during the past year. It will be a great joy for me to celebrate my 40th Anniversary of Ordination as a priest with you on May 29, 2010. Mark your calendar and make plans to come to Ireland for the celebrations in my home parish on July 3, 2010.

Your friend, *Msgr. Morgan*



Joyous Christmas

St. Peter, Prince of the Apostles Church  
3901 Violet Rd. Corpus Christi, TX 78410



## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2010

**“LONGING FOR THE HOLY SESSIONS” TO BEGIN IN OUR PARISH ON JANUARY 10, 2010.** Our new series for our small faith sharing groups is set to start on January 10<sup>th</sup> and we are now accepting registrations from all adults who want to be part of this exciting way of growing in holiness and grace. You may choose the night and group you wish to join or we will get you into an existing group on the night you choose. FMI call our office at 241-3249 or Paul Hickey at 241-8662.

**CALLING ALL PARISH MINISTERS:** Our Diocesan Ministry Day Conference will be held at the American Bank Center on Saturday, Jan. 16, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. The parish will pay the fee of \$25.00 but you must sign up by Dec. 31st. See the sign up sheets at exits and for more information, see flier on bulletin board or call 241-3249.

**TAKE YOUR ‘VALENTINE’ ON A WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND FEB. 12-14, 2010.** This weekend is designed to help make good marriages better by having a deeper encounter with yourself, your spouse and God. Space is limited and pre-registrations are required during the month of December. The weekend starts on Friday at 7:30 p.m. and ends on Sunday by 5 p.m. FMI, email/call Nelda & Rolando Garza at [www.cc@sbcglobal.net](http://www.cc@sbcglobal.net) or call 361-851-8306. ME is a great gift to give each other.

**“FAITH COMES BY HEARING” WILL BEGIN HERE AND IN THE DIOCESE OF CORPUS CHRISTI ON ASH WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17, ‘10.** Everyone will be challenged to listen to the New Testament for 28 minutes a day during the Lenten Season. We will be using iPods and MP3 players and the children will have their own Bible Stories. More information later.

**“CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME” SESSIONS STARTING ON THURSDAY, FEB. 18TH.** This 7 week program is designed for adults who wish to “Come Back Home” to the Catholic Church and get a refresher course on the basic teaching of our Faith. The weekly sessions will be held on Thursday nights from 7:15 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Deacon Al Cicora is in charge. To register and for more information call our office at 241-3249.

**WANT TO HAVE YOUR CIVIL MARRIAGE BLESSED IN THE CHURCH?** Civilly Married Couples, who are interested in receiving the Sacrament of Matrimony, should contact Msgr. Morgan at 241-3249 to get details of the upcoming Convalidation Retreat and fill out the required Marriage forms for their Church wedding day.

**LORRAINE HARTSOOK TO CONDUCT MINI-RETREAT AND CONCERT HERE ON JANUARY 30-31.** Lorraine is an award winning Canadian singer/musician/author and retreat leader and she is coming to visit us on the weekend of January 30-31. The Retreat, on Saturday, 1 - 5 p.m. , is for all adults and the Concert on Sunday at 7 p.m. is for the whole family. More information in January bulletins. Mark your calendar today.

**May the Miracle of Christmas fill your heart with Peace and Happiness.  
From Msgr. Morgan, Msgr. McGowan and Parish Staff.**