

Merry Christmas

"And behold, the star that they had seen at its rising preceded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was. They were overjoyed at seeing the star." – MT 2:9-10

Dear Friends and Family of St. Patrick Catholic School,

On behalf of our parish school, I would like to wish each of you a very happy and holy Christmas season!

One of the things I look forward to the most during this time of year are the Christmas carols. Some of these songs really speak to me in a special way. By far, *O Holy Night* is my favorite. This year, in particular, the song seems to speak to my heart and mind in a unique way. A phrase in the first verse reads, "A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices." We cannot pick up a newspaper or glance at a news website without reading about the all the hardships people are currently facing. In every corner of our world, we find poverty, war, disease, famine, and suffering. Just like the first Christmas, it appears that our world is once again in a "weary state." At Christmas, however, we remember and rejoice at Christ's coming to a weary world. Our faith teaches us that we must have trust in Divine Providence. We must not succumb to the weariness of our society's misfortunes. We must be a "thrill of hope" to the poor, to those living in war, those affected by disease and famine, and to all children who are our most precious resource. While we anticipate this Second Coming, how can we be a thrill of hope to others? This Christmas, I pray that each member of our parish and school community has the strength to face the challenges in our daily lives with a heart of love and peace.

Please know that I am most grateful for your presence within our community. I wish you a very Holy Christmas and Happy New Year. May the Blessed Mother watch over you and your loved ones this sacred season.

In closing, I will leave you with a prayer:

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

Amen.

With you in Christ,
Autumn Carson