

St. Basil's Christmas Appeal

Christ is Born ! Glorify Him !

Merry Christmas & DeColores to all in our wonderful Saint Basil's Community! As we approach the end of what has been a historic year, we give thanks to Jesus and pray for all those in need. We thank you all for your prayers and acts of kindness done for us at Saint Basils while we were sick with the virus.

It's been a challenging year in many ways; all around the globe and certainly right here at St. Basils. As you know, we have paused all Cursillo weekends and multi-day retreats to ensure our community remains safe. This has been very difficult for many. I have heard from countless people expressing the need for Cursillo, especially in this time of isolation. However, having recovered from Covid-19 myself, I want to do everything possible to keep our loving community safe. We continue to plan for what can be done safely and remain optimistic about the amazing weekends in our future.

Although the Center has not been offering Cursillo weekends or spiritual retreats, we are offering Monday Night Liturgy – in a socially distanced format as well as on ZOOM. Please consider joining us! We are also offering PreCana both in house and by ZOOM. We have held two co-ed Evenings of Renewal which were both outstanding. Daniele Fernekes brought down the house with her love, honesty, joy, and enthusiasm. Her victory in Christ story was great. Gary & Carol Melville were deep and enlightening but will repeat their excellent and moving talk because of technical difficulties it was not available on ZOOM.

While things were quiet this summer, community members renovated Saint Joseph's Library on the 2nd floor of the Center. This newly decorated and very comfy room now awaits you when Cursillo weekends resume. We also put a fresh coat of paint on almost the entire Center. We purchased two 'foggers' to ensure cleanliness and safety for all at the Center.

While we have done our best to make progress during the shutdown, we have been unable to raise funding in all our traditional ways. Not having Cursillo weekends or spiritual retreats has been tough and impactful on the Center. Canceling our Christmas Fair was particularly difficult. I would ask that you consider making a donation to Saint Basil's to help us make up for these shortfalls. As an incentive, an anonymous member of our community has offered to match the first \$25,000 in funds raised – Praise Jesus! This will effectively double any contribution you make so please take advantage of it. You can send a tax-deductible donation by check or donate online through our website <https://saintbasils.org/resource-room/donate/>.

I miss all of you and look forward to seeing you soon. We are a community of hope and faith and we will endure these challenges with Jesus by our side. Wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Fr. Martin