As I sit before an image of “Our Lady,” I ponder on the Mystery of the *Incarnation* and JESUS’ coming into our world; moreover, that he breaks into our world of substance, with flesh and bone, blood and water, a world that has been created by GOD. Our God is a God of Love and of Mercy. A God who makes his presence known by sending His Son to show us how much He LOVES US! How blessed we are my sisters and brothers that the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses and David has sent us his Son Jesus who will be born in a stable and will save us from our sins. He became Man so that all who believe in him and follow him may have *eternal life.* As we celebrate the birth of the Messiah, let us be filled with Joy as we celebrate God’s coming into our world to be our True High Priest…the ONE who will lead us to the Beatific Vision!

At this time of the year it gives me the opportunity to ‘Wish You All’ a very “MERRY CHRISTMAS” and a “HAPPY NEW YEAR” filled with Joy & Happiness. Christmas is a time when families and friends gather to exchange Hugs, Kisses, Gifts, Stories and their Love For One Another. It is a time to share our faith and our concern for those around us, and those who cannot be with us at this time in our lives. It is a time to sip on a glass of wine or a rum toddy in front of the fireplace and talk about the past, the present and the future. It is a time to gather around the Christmas Tree and to open gifts and see the expression on one’s face as they are overwhelmed with the charity given. It is a time to just be present to one another, and say “I love You” and “I thank God” everyday for your presence on this earth. It is a time just to say…………..

 “MERRY CHRISTMAS” & “HAPPY NEW YEAR”

 EVERYONE!

May the “GOOD GOD” bless your NEW YEAR with “LOVE & CHARITY” and may your LOVE for HOLY MOTHER CHURCH continue to grow in the VIRTUE of “FORGIVENESS and MERCY.”

As our Holy Father Francis has launched the Jubilee year of Forgiveness and Mercy on December 8th (Immaculate Conception) to November 16, 2016, may this be a year to grow in the grace of MERCY. Let us open our hearts to those in need of Mercy and Forgiveness. Let us be vessels of Mercy and Forgiveness to all we meet in the New Year.

 PEACE BE WITH YOU!

 PAX VOBIS!

 SHALOM!

FR. ARLAN PARENTEAU (Pastor of the Church on the Hill – ST.VITAL PARISH)

**PRAYER OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS**

**FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY**

**L**ord 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 of you, Lord Jesus, 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.