

# GRATITUDE!

Gratitude and Generosity. Generosity and Gratitude!

They are so different and yet so woven together! God's generosity can open our hearts to so much gratitude....and our gratitude to God.... can open our hearts to so much generosity to others! A beautiful song by Nichole Nordeman from her album "Woven & Spun" brings this beautiful paradox into a mystical, enchanting experience. The song speaks about finding gratitude in both the good times and the bad times in life. You can listen to this wonderful song on our new website at [www.stmarysnutley.org](http://www.stmarysnutley.org). We have so much to be grateful for at Saint Mary's as we begin the New Year!

What a wonderful 2018 for Saint Mary's Church. More than 500 children participating in our Religious Education programs, Over 90+ First Communions and great Youth and Adult Confirmation services, So much kindness and generosity throughout our Parish Community.

Thank you to the Knights of Columbus and the Rosary Society for their continuing support and generosity.

Our Thanksgiving dinner in the school gym provided a good meal, warmth, and good music to over 220 people as so many shared so generously their gratitude to God. Our Saint Mary Novena had a combined attendance of over 1000 people culminating on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The Novena Feast was exceptional and was attended by over 200 people. So much generosity. So much gratitude!

Much gratitude to the Lay Leadership Council and the Finance Council for their advice, counsel and service to our Church! And most importantly, Father Tom and myself are so grateful for your kindness, mercy and generosity. We are both so blessed to be assigned to Saint Mary's and so privileged to be able to serve you!

My dear brothers and sisters, may the warmth of God's love guide your family, friends and loved ones as we begin this New Year! May your hearts be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit and may God's unlimited Mercy be with you as we walk together on this journey of life. So much generosity! So much gratitude!

Merry Christmas and love,

Fr. Rich