

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH

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PRESS RELEASE

The joy of the Christmas season has a way of warming hearts of many, that brings a sense of hope, peace and the promise of tranquility as we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. It is a time when we hear the joyous songs of “Joy to the World,” “Hark the Herald Angles Sing,” and “Ring Christmas Bells Merrily Ring” that lift up our hearts and our souls.

However, these same songs for others bring much pain and sorrow. The fact is for some within our community Christmas is not a time for joy or happiness, rather it is a time of somber pain and distress and inner anguish. For these individuals Christmas is not a joyous time of the year, rather it has become a lonely and painful time.

This sadness is the result of various situations that have affected them personally. For some it is the death of a loved one, either after a long illness, or suddenly and unexpectedly, that leaves them feeling unable to attend a Christmas Mass which they would formerly have been able to do alongside their spouse, child, parent, partner, etc, because the memories are just too painful. For others it could be the result of a medical exam and hearing the dread words “you have cancer.” Still others can be dealing with a divorce, loss of a job, separation (by distance or circumstances) from family or friends, depression or some other anxious moments in their life.

Whatever the situation the fact is they are not ready to celebrate with great joy the season of Christmas. For these individuals their emotional state is one filled with anxiety, sadness, and they tend to feel blue.

In an effort to minister to those who are not filled with the joy of the Christmas Season, as many are, All Saints Catholic Church will have a special Mass on Christmas Day at 10:30 a.m. which is nationally known as “Christmas Blue Mass.” It is referred to in this manner because it captures the emotional mood that these individuals are “blue.”

It will be a celebration to acknowledge the Nativity of the Lord without all the joyous Christmas hymns. It is our hope that this Mass celebration will enable those who feel blue the opportunity to prayerfully celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and be able to discover their own sense of peace this Christmas Season as they watch, wait and hope for the healing, comforting presence of our Lord.

Rev. Peter C. Weiss, S.S.J