



SAINT JOHN THE EVANGELIST—
OUR LADY OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH

348 EAST 55TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10022
212.753.8418/9

December 1, 2015

Ms. Melisande Valdes
220 East 63rd Street, Apt. 7-D
New York, NY 10065

Dear Ms. Valdes,

Thank you for your recent and kind letter requesting that Holy Mass be celebrated on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception at the former Parish Church of Our Lady of Peace.

I regret that I wasn't able to reply to you sooner. However, I have been involved and continue to be deeply involved in caring for my mother during her final illness.

You should know that the decision to decline this request was based upon an official interpretation by the Office of Pastoral Planning for the Archdiocese of New York. According to that interpretation, the term "special occasion", as stated in the Parish Transition Manual, means the feast day of the former parish. This interpretation is binding on all Pastors and Administrators of merged parishes. Inasmuch as the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is not the feast day of the former parish of Our Lady of Peace, the decision to decline the request cannot be changed.

Nevertheless, all are warmly invited to celebrate Mary's Immaculate Conception and the opening of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy at the former Parish Church of St. John the Evangelist, which is the new Parish Church of the newly merged Parish of St. John the Evangelist-Our Lady of Peace.

With prayerful regards, I am,

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Douglas J. Mathers
Pastor