



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! As you can see from the signs in Church -- the new missalletes, purple vestments and Advent Wreath --- we have officially entered a new season, we aren't in Ordinary Time anymore!

But what is more, we have begun a New Year: The Year of Grace 2020. Throughout this year, our Sunday readings will be taken from St. Matthew's Gospel and we will be taken on a pilgrimage through the Life of Christ. What begins with Advent will continue thru Ordinary Time, Lent and Easter Seasons. And in each of these seasons, we will have an opportunity to encounter the Risen Lord, to hear His Word and celebrate His Sacred Mysteries. What a beautiful gift we have in the Church's Liturgical Year.

When it comes to Advent, we find a two-fold character to this Season. It is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered. And by remembering his first coming, our minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

Here in the USA, the advent devotion and expectant delight is already being felt as we received word this past week that one of our own fellow citizens will be recognized as BLESSED. In just 3 weeks, on December 21, the late and great Bishop Fulton J. Sheen will be beatified in his home diocese of Peoria, Illinois. Born in 1895 in Illinois, Fulton Sheen was ordained a priest 100 years ago in 1919. He became a bishop in 1951 and served as an auxiliary bishop of New York. He was the Bishop of Rochester for a brief time and retired in New York City. Most known for his television program, LIFE IS WORTH LIVING, Fulton Sheen was a prolific author, a teacher of the faith and a holy Man. In so many ways, his writings and life readied and taught the world of Jesus. He died December 9, 1979 and this month, we celebrate the fact that he lives forever in Christ the Lord.

As we begin this Sacred Season and New Year, I encourage you to make the most of it. Schedule a time for Confession, spend some time in prayer; be made ready for the celebration of God-With-Us. There are many good ways that this can happen. On-line resources like Bishop Robert Barron and Matthew Kelly are terrific. But allow everything in this Holy Season to orient you to the most important thing: Being with God who in this Season comes to be with us.

May the late, great and soon to be BLESSED FULTON SHEEN help us in that task. And may our Lady draw us close to her Son.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

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*****PLEASE TAKE NOTE*****

Please note the time change for Christmas Eve Mass.

The 4:30PM Mass has been changed to **4:00PM**.

The 6:30PM and 8:15PM Masses remain the same.



ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES

Monday, December 16 @ St. Maximilian Kolbe, West Chester

Tuesday, December 17 @ St. Cornelius, Chadds Ford

Wednesday, December 18 @ St. Gabriel, Avondale

Thursday, December 19 @ St. Patrick

All Penance Services begin at 7:00PM.

