

My Dear Parishioners,

Greetings to you and Happy New Year, Happy Advent! This year, with Christmas on a Sunday, we are treated to a rare FULL four week Advent Season. So often, the fourth week of Advent is cut short by Christmas! But not this year! And as it now begins, I encourage you to make the most of Advent's Fullness! It's not the fullness of a turkey-filled stomach, a house full of Christmas Gifts or a Calendar with every date filled-up. Advent Fullness involves making and leaving space for the Child Jesus to rest His Head on you. How might this happen? Consider the following ways:

- 1) Go to Confession:** The Sacrament of Confession – sorrow for sin, repentance and confession-- makes room for Christ Jesus. This Saturday, our 2nd Graders will be celebrating the Sacrament for the first time, readying themselves not just for Christmas but for Communion. We can do the same. Set a date for a good Confession this Advent. It'll make room for God-in-you.
- 2) Time Before the Blessed Sacrament:** Visit Church during the week. Our Church is open every day till 3PM. On Mondays, we have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. And this Friday, from 7 to 8:30PM guided prayer and praise before the Lord. Such time makes room for God-in-you.
- 3) Advent Reflections/Time with the Word:** There is an abundance of on-line daily email reflections on Advent. From Bishop Barron to Matthew Kelly, to the US Bishops Website to the Word Among Us. Pray with the Word of God and there will be room made for God-in You.

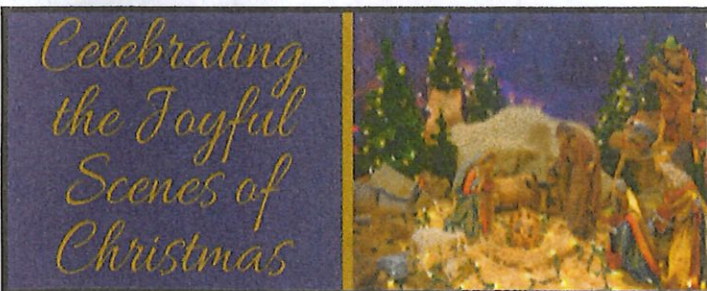
Finally, a word from one of my favorite Advent Authors, Carol Houelander and her book *The Reed Of God*:

Those who complain the loudest of the emptiness of their lives are usually people whose lives are overcrowded, filled with trivial details, plans, desires, ambitions, unsatisfied cravings for passing pleasures, doubts, anxieties and fears;

How different is the pre-Advent emptiness of Our Lady's purposeful virginity which is not a formless emptiness, a void without meaning, but one that has a shape, a form given to it by the purpose for which it is intended. Like the hollow in the reed, the narrow riftless emptiness which can have only one destiny: to receive the piper's breath and to utter the song that is in his heart. Or it is the emptiness like the hollow in the cup, shaped to receive water or wine; the emptiness of the bird's nest, built in a round warm ring to receive the little bird. This is the purposeful emptiness of a virginal heart, this is the gift of Advent.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

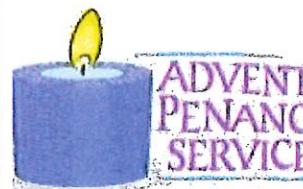


**THE JOYFUL SCENES OF CHRISTMAS
PARISH ROSARY & CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022 AT 4:00 PM**

Please save the date and join us in Church as we gather to pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary as our parish children represent each of these mysteries in the five joyful scenes. Afterwards, all are welcome outside in the Parish Courtyard for our Christmas Tree Blessing & Lighting followed by Christmas caroling, hot chocolate and other delicious treats sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Come and share the joy of this Advent Season with friends and family! We hope to see you there. 236



First Friday Adoration
December 2, 2022 at 7:00PM
Please join us in church
All are welcome!



- Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00PM-St. Maximilian Kolbe
- Wednesday, December 14 at 7:00PM-Sacred Heart
- Tuesday, December 20 at 7:00PM-St. Patrick
- Wednesday, December 21 at 11:00AM & 7:00PM-St. Cornelius