

Dear Parishioners,

We are entering the last full week of Advent and lighting the third candle on the Advent wreath. The Latin word for this third Sunday of Advent is “Gaudete”, meaning rejoice! The cause for our joy is the fact that we are coming very near to Christmas, the birth of our Savior. I hope and pray that everyone’s Advent has been prayerful and fruitful, and that this final preparation for the coming of the Savior is joyful.

There are a few opportunities of grace to take advantage of this week at the parish. Join us for a daily Eucharist; Tue. at 5:30pm, Wed. and Thurs. at 8:00am or Friday at 8:30am. The prayers and readings at these Masses are direct preparation and lead us into the mystery of Christmas. On Dec. 18th the school is hosting their Christmas concert which will be Lessons and Carols in the Church. There will be two performances: 1:30 and 6:30pm. Please join us for this grace-filled and spiritually uplifting musical experience put on by our school children under the leadership of Jaci Cummings, our music teacher.

On Dec. 19th we will have our Parish Penance Service. It will begin with the Koinonia meal at the parish center at 6pm, if you wish to join us. The Penance Service will start at 7pm in the church. There will be a short Liturgy of the Word and examination of conscience followed by individual confessions. We will have several priests coming from other parishes for confessions. This will be an excellent opportunity to receive the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Christmas.

Be thinking about participating in Koinonia. In January we are adding a new slate of opportunities to grow in the faith, and I think there is something for everyone. I am especially excited that we are offering Alpha. Alpha is a program for those with little or no familiarity with the faith, for the non-Catholic or fallen away Catholic, for the person who is merely curious and those seeking the answers to life’s big questions. We will also be offering a Confirmation program for adults who were baptized and grew up in the Church, but for some reason did not receive Confirmation. Go to our parish web page to check out all the opportunities, and think about who you might invite to participate. All of these offerings are intended to help you grow in the faith. They aren’t for credit (except perhaps credit in heaven), so feel free to drop in on a session or switch classes. The second session of Koinonia starts Jan 9th.

The empty niche near the choir area is about to be filled with a beautiful wood-carved statue from Italy! This statue has been almost two years in the planning. The statue has arrived and we are making plans to secure the statue to the concrete pedestal. A professional company will be doing the securing and installation. The statue has been custom designed to reflect our parish as Holy Rosary. The statue is of Mary holding Jesus, with a rosary coming to us from Jesus through the hands of Mary. This beautiful statue has been made possible by the very generous donations of many parishioners. I would like to thank those parishioners who participated. We plan to unveil and dedicate this statue on the Solemnity of the Mother of God Jan. 1st.