

## December 2, 2019: Entering Advent and Use of the Propers

Dear Parishioners,

Today begins the beautiful liturgical season of Advent. It is a season of grace, a special time to give God the opportunity to penetrate our lives as he penetrated the world over two thousand years ago, when he came to the young virgin at Nazareth. Advent has the texture of silence, waiting, hope and joy. Silence before the great mystery of the Incarnation, waiting like the dawn for the sunrise, hope for the good things to come and the truth and joy Jesus will bring to the world.

The mystery continues to be present and unfold in our time and our lives. As Advent happens it gives us yet again the opportunity to discover and rediscover the truth of Jesus' coming into the world as Emanuel, God with us. May each of us make a place in our lives for the grace of Advent to penetrate our lives. For me as a child the Advent wreath around our family table with prayers and readings was very meaningful and memorable and helped me enter into the Advent Season. And I loved singing the "O Come, O Come Emmanuel", which seemed to be the official song of Advent. May we do those things that will help us enter fully into the Advent season. We are grateful to have the Advent banner in the church, provided by the Women's Association, along with the Advent wreath, to remind us of Advent.

I encourage everyone to take advantage of the Advent Season by preparing a place for Emmanuel to be present in your homes. The parish has several resources and opportunities to help you. As you leave today, we have a **small blue Advent devotional** to give each family. If you have not yet utilized FORMED, **the parish has already paid for your account**. Visit <http://holyrosaryedmonds.formed.org> to register and access Advent materials that will deepen your faith. **Our kiosk** in the narthex will soon be filled with Advent resources. Come to Koinonia on Wednesday nights and drop in on any class and join us for Benediction at 8PM. Our parish penance service will be Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, the Koinonia meal will be served at 6pm and the Penance Service with individual confessions starts at 7PM.

Musically and liturgically we have decided to take greater advantage of what the Church's liturgy has to offer by beginning to incorporate the use of the Propers for Mass. The Propers are Biblical excerpts and words of prayer that accompany a specific liturgical celebration. They help focus our attention on that particular celebration or season. Beginning in Advent, the Propers we will be introducing here at Holy Rosary will include an Entrance Antiphon, Offertory Antiphon and Communion Antiphon. Please see the insert that we have placed in the bulletin or text available on the web-site that explains the Propers and how to follow along. We hope our introduction of the Propers allows you a fully enriched, holy and sacred Mass experience, and draws you closer to Christ.

In Christ,

Father Vincent