



HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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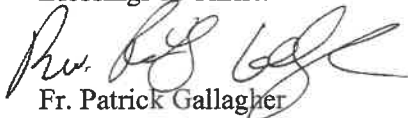
My Holy Rosary family,

It has only been one year since Fr. Michael and I came to Holy Rosary but we have already gone through so much together. This has been a different kind of year to say the least. But, even when we were unable to be together during the pandemic. We kept Christ at the center of our lives, following the example of our beloved patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary, by reflecting the love of God to one another. We have lifted one another up in prayer, continued to support the parish financially, and graciously volunteered to help one another when it was needed. When the Bishop lifted his decree on October 4th, it was wonderful to see so many at Mass again. And now, I am excited to be able to celebrate with you our Second Advent and Christmas together. Now, I know that Easter is supposed to be the height of our liturgical year. But it is Advent and Christmas that really touch my heart. For as I told you last year, Christmas is the ultimate good news that this world needs to hear. In a world plagued by violence, injustice, and what can seem like a never ending fount of disorder, fear, and confusion. When the news seems to be more bad than good, the promise of Immanuel, “God with us,” needs to be heard louder and more clearly than ever before. It is our mission here at Holy Rosary to proclaim that good news, that God is indeed with us, not just at Advent and Christmas, but all throughout our lives.

As we once again are drawn into these holy seasons, the words of St. John the Baptist should resound within us, “Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths.” Over the next four weeks we are invited to get ready, to prepare, to make a place for the Lord in our lives and in our hearts and to anticipate His coming. Advent is a time to get ready and to build up the hope within our hearts for the promised coming of Jesus Christ! We do this by repenting of our sins and emptying ourselves of all that keeps us from totally embracing Christ. I encourage each of us to take advantage of this Advent season to really dig deep into our hearts and souls. So as we seek Christ this season let us pay attention to devotions that have always helped us draw closer to Him. Gathering together as a family to pray and light our Advent Wreaths, blessing our Christmas trees, praying the St. Andrew Christmas Novena, having a daily family devotional, the options are unlimited. Please see our website for things your family can do together.

But once again, we need to remind ourselves that we don’t just prepare individually. We as a parish family also reflect in our communal worship a change from the “norm” to prepare ourselves more intently. During the Advent season, we fast from singing the Gloria as a reminder that we are waiting for Jesus to come. In our worship, incense has always been a symbol of our prayers ascending to heaven. We will be using incense at the 10:30am Mass to remind ourselves of the greater intensity of our prayer. Each, Wednesday and Friday in addition to our normal adoration we will also be offering the Sacrament of Confession from 5:00pm to 6:00pm. Sunday evenings we will offer Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions, and Solemn Vespers so that we can prepare ourselves more fully for the Christ’s coming among us. And finally, each weekend as we gather together for Mass during this holy season we will light the candles of our Advent wreath. As we do so, we tell the world, “The darkness will not last! For there is someone more powerful than all the evils affecting this world. Christ is ‘the Light that came into the world’ to dispel the darkness.” My brothers and sisters, I pray that you will have a blessed Advent!

Blessings in Christ!


Fr. Patrick Gallagher

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us now and at the hour of our death.