

MESSAGE FROM THE LAP TOP

MARANATHA, COME LORD JESUS, COME!

Sunday Greetings Family of HNOJ & HC:

I do hope that you had some form of pleasant and safe Thanksgiving celebration with as many of your family and friends as was plausible during these hectic corona virus times. As of right now, I am under the impression that most of the school systems have gone into a two-week remote mode to avoid any virus issues coming off this Thanksgiving break. An ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! This First Sunday of Advent affords we Catholics the opportunity to offer this greeting. I have been stressing this point, for the past two weeks, and now we arrive at the moment of transition. As you can see, the liturgical color has been changed to the purple of Advent and our scripture readings come from Sunday cycle B which allows us to listen to the incredibly beautiful gospel of Mark. The message that we shall be hearing does not bring us to the traditional Christmas scriptures that we are all pining for. No, we shall continue to hear, up until the Sixteenth of December, the same message that we finished out this past liturgical year with. We are being guided to keep our vision focused on the future, toward the promised return of our Lord Jesus in His glory.

I tell you; this can certainly be a challenge when we are exposed to so much advertising and other media elements that are focusing upon Christmas Day. I do not know about you, but I really feel that this whole corona virus situation has put many on over-drive when it comes to Christmas. I am certain that you have noticed that a good number of Christmas decorations have already gone up. Why, I can not gather in my “prayer chair” and not be swept into “visions” of Christmas via my neighbor across the street from my rectory window who has a huge display set up in the yard for the past few weeks. I seem to get it; people have had their lives so regulated due to this corona virus that they want to have some outlet that will bring light into their lives. I only caution that it will not distract us from the important message of Advent that we need to pay attention to.

I was reminded about the uncertainty of our times here upon earth when I read, in one of my periodicals, that this new year finds us with a number of souls who have entered into their particular journey back to the Lord who were among us when we last celebrated the start of Advent last year. Who would have anticipated last Advent that we would have the type of year that we have just gone through? I hope there will be light at the end of the tunnel as we begin our walk into Advent now and progress through the new liturgical year ahead.

I would like to be the voice of encouragement to any and all of our two parishes who hear me and have the opportunity, and time, to act upon what I am inviting to be considered. I have been between both parishes now for the past two months and we have been able to develop a working pattern for daily Mass that is evenly split between the two. The one factor that we cherish as Catholics that is the source and summit to our lives is the Eucharist. Mass at HNOJ has been offered in the church all the time I have been with you. Now, Mass at HC has returned back to the church for daily Mass as well. HNOJ has daily Mass on Monday & Friday; HC has daily Mass on Tuesday & Wednesday; all are celebrated at 9:00 in the morning and share both Word and Eucharist for our continuing journey. I would like to encourage the retired members of our parishes to make this an Advent that will open you to a new aspect to your spiritual life that will help you to be watchful and ready.

That is all for now. **GO FORTH AND ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD. MANY BLESSINGS FOR THE WEEK!!!!**

Fr. Mike