

My brothers and sisters in Christ, today, the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**, is a great feast in the Church, celebrating the fact that Mary was born without original sin. She was chosen by God but still had free will. It was her great Fiat, her yes to God, that stands as a shining example for us. Especially during the holy season of Advent, when we are to focus on the Nativity and the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is a season when we are to practice detachment from the world and discern what God's will is for us. This is an ongoing process, which, if combined with our fiat, our own saying yes to the will of Christ, that leads to holiness and salvation. This coming Saturday, December 12, is the feast of **Our Lady of Guadalupe**, patroness of the Americas. Praying an extra **daily rosary** this week for our country would be a good Advent activity.

This Thursday, December 10 is our **Penance Service**, at St Ann after 6:00pm Mass. There will be no formal program. Priests will be available until about 8:00pm or when we are done. If you are not comfortable coming to Mass then come in and say your confession, do your penance and then you can leave. It should leave plenty of room and still accommodate everyone **who is not currently a saint**.

Next week is our **Parish Advent Mission with Fr Stephen Hayes**, Monday through Wednesday, December 14-16. Fr Hayes will be here this weekend to say Mass and introduce the Mission. It will be at St. Mary and live streamed, but live attendance is encouraged. We have plenty of room at St. Mary to spread out in the Chapel, Church and downstairs. Rosary starts at 6:40pm, with talk at 7:00pm.

**Advent** is a time of preparation and reparation, as we wait for our Lord to come. It is like Lent to be a season of fasting, almsgiving and prayer. **Remember the poor** even more this time of year. Our parish is sponsoring **Heartbeats**: diapers 5-6, baby wipes, boys and girls clothing newborn to size 4 can be dropped off in boxes at each of the Churches. Monetary donations are also appreciated in envelope marked Heartbeats in the boxes. Remember also your favorite charities that assist the poor. The Knight of Columbus Charity, Food for the Poor and Catholic Charities of Columbus Diocese are excellent choices with a majority of the funds going directly toward helping the poor.

**Our Lady of Guadalupe, conceived without sin, Pray for Us!!**