

## FROM FATHER DAVE, PASTOR

Inside the majestic Sistine Chapel, one cannot help but be struck by the magnificent frescoes of Michelangelo found on the ceilings and walls. One of the more striking frescoes is found on the altar wall featuring the Last Judgment which contains over 300 figures. The scene starkly points to that time of judgment which is inevitable for every human being.

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. We behold Jesus as our King. His kingship is unlike any other for it is not about wealth, domination or power but service and love. To adore him is to become people of service and love.

On this final Sunday of the liturgical year, the Church places before us an image of the Last Judgment, in particular, the criteria of judgment. This criterion comes down to service and love. More specifically, it is about feeding the hungry, giving a drink to the thirsty, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked and visiting the imprisoned.

As often as we do these things for others, we do them for Jesus. Another way of describing this criterion is to say that it is all about serving the poor and those in need. The way we embrace these people will determine whether we will go to eternal punishment or eternal life. To make this matter even more complex, only God knows how much time we have left here on earth to prove ourselves before we are judged.

One final way to look at this judgment is to view it not by what we have done but failed to do. Some of our greatest sins can be sins of omission, the greatest of which is failing to love others as Jesus loves us.

This week is the final one of the liturgical year. On the one hand, this time presents an opportunity to reflectively look back on our lives with a good examination of conscience. On the other hand, as we anticipate the new liturgical year with the holy season of Advent, it is a moment to look ahead and perhaps make some spiritual resolutions. Every new beginning offers great possibilities. Please take some time this week to look back and to look ahead recognizing though that the front windshield is always bigger than the rear-view mirror.



Watch for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Saint Aidan Newsletter which should be released soon.

Please know that during the first three weeks of Advent Fr. Will and I will be available for confessions every **Wednesday evening from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the porticos of the school and the Ryan Center at Saint Alphonsus** in addition to **Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Saint Alexis under the new and old church porticos**. Prepare the way of the Lord!

With our clergy and staff, I wish you and your family a prayerful Advent season.

