

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

The arrival of the Fourth Sunday of Advent means that there is one week left for Christmas preparations of every sort. Both material and spiritual preparations will be finishing up soon.

Just like we all have presents to wrap, food to prepare and packages to send before a certain day, so too should we think about our spiritual preparedness at this wonderful but often hectic time of year.

One of the best ways to spiritually prepare for major solemnities like Christmas is to be sure we have examined our consciences and perhaps discover that we would do well to avail ourselves of the sacrament of Reconciliation. That is exactly the reason the Church offers us added opportunities for Confession before Christmas and Easter.

Tomorrow is Reconciliation Monday during Advent with Confessions in every parish between 4:00PM and 8:00PM. In addition, here at St. Patrick's, there is a slot for Confessions on Wednesday from 12:30PM till 1:30PM, and also on Thursday from 4:00PM to 6:00PM and 8:00PM to 9:00PM. It is a great idea to approach the Nativity with clean hearts and souls out of love for Jesus.

On a more mundane note, we are also trying to prepare for the possibly snowy winter months as a parish. You may have seen the articles in the *Journal News* over the last week or so about Snow Budgets (for municipalities). We have had to confront the need for better snow plowing and our snow removal budget has increased considerably. It would be great if we could count on a snowless winter but it doesn't usually work that way! With your generous contributions, both regular and at Christmas time, we will be fine. Perhaps with less money in reserve but with cleaner pavements. Cleaner souls and cleaner sidewalks sounds like a good plan in every respect. May Advent lead to a joyous Christmas!

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom right of the page, below the typed name.