

## A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Starting tomorrow, December 16th, the Church asks all of us to think more about celebrating the birthday of Jesus. Up until this time, adults have been asked to prepare more for the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time, but admittedly that is a little hard to do since, first of all, we do not know when that will occur. Basically, if we seek always to be in a state of grace, turn away from sin, and follow in the ways of Jesus, we are preparing to encounter Jesus now and in the future. After all, Jesus comes to us in many ways, especially in the Eucharist.

As mentioned though, beginning on the 16th, the Church wants us to think more about the gift the world and all people received twenty centuries ago. God the Father sent His Son into the world to show us the way to heaven and to reveal God's love for us. Jesus did that with his whole life, beginning with His birth and by completing His sacrifice on the Cross. We are all called to celebrate the First Coming of Christ each year at Christmas with great joy.

Please note the extra times for Confession this week and the schedule of Christmas Masses. If you know someone who usually comes to Midnight Mass, please tell them that the Mass at Night begins at 11:00 pm, NOT Midnight this year.

Lastly, a simple word about the great generosity of our parishioners. In every way, we are a strong parish. Our people support the parish with donations and collections in a tremendous way. Some people have commented on the Pastor's Annual Report to say that it is very good news. One parishioner suggests that we try to encourage parishioners who do not contribute to consider some sort of regular donation. If everyone realized that just the equivalent of \$2.86 per day comes to about twenty dollars per week, perhaps our collections would be many thousands of dollars higher. Likewise, if more people used WeShare as an almost automatic way to pay, the parish would never miss donations. I truly appreciate the ideas but the same issues/challenges are faced by virtually every parish. I will continue to think about how we can encourage more active participation at Mass and in every way. If you have ideas, please let me know.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.