

A note from Fr George



“Prepare the Way of the Lord”

**Happy First Sunday of Advent and Happy Church
New Year!**



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we enter this beautiful season of Advent, the Church invites us to slow down and prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior. **Advent is a season of reflection, of hope, and of penance.** While the world rushes ahead with shopping, baking, and planning celebrations, **Jesus calls us to pause, breathe, and become attentive to His quiet presence among us.**

These weeks are far more than a countdown to Christmas. They are a sacred time to watch, to wait, and to pray. **When we prepare with intention, our hearts become more open to the deep joy and lasting peace Christ offers at Christmas.**

I encourage everyone to enrich this season by attending Mass more frequently—perhaps choosing one additional weekday Mass beyond Sunday. Please also consider making time for **the Sacrament of Reconciliation**. Advent is an especially grace-filled moment to seek forgiveness and renewal. You are warmly invited to join our **Advent Reflections on Mondays (Dec. 1st, 15th, and 22nd - 7pm -8pm)**.

During Advent, I would like to visit our **homebound parishioners** and offer them spiritual support (administer the sacraments). If you know someone who would like a visit, **please inform me personally or contact the parish office.**

I also invite every household to embrace simple yet meaningful Advent practices:

- **lighting the Advent wreath together,**
- **reading the daily Gospel,**
- **praying for those who are suffering or who feel alone, and**
- **keeping Sunday as a day centered on Christ and the Holy Eucharist.**

These small acts of faith create space for Christ to enter our homes and hearts.

Advent is a journey—a walk of faith, hope, and love. Let us make this journey together. **May the Blessed Virgin Mary, who waited for the Lord with perfect trust, accompany us and draw us ever closer to her Son.**

May God bless you and your loved ones this Advent – and beyond – as we together prepare our hearts for the coming of our Savior. I look forward to celebrating this Advent season and Christmas with you and your loved ones! **Jesus is coming—let us be ready!**

Advent greetings and blessings.