



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

We welcome all who are still visiting for Thanksgiving and hope everyone enjoyed time with family and friends. Today we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. It is the final Sunday of the current liturgical year, as we turn the page of our liturgical calendars changing from white to purple vestments as the Advent season begins on December 3. Spiritually and liturgically we are provided four weeks to pray and anticipate the birth of our Lord and Savior. May we take advantage of the spirituality of Advent, praying our way to the joy of Christ's birth this Christmas.

Last month Pope Francis invited the world to pray, sacrifice, and fast on Friday, October 27 for peace in the Middle East, in Israel and the West Bank. We grow in faith by the prayer we offer, the sacrifices we make, and the fasting we offer for the good of others. The following prayer was encouraged to be prayed last month. We will welcome, Jesus, the Prince of Peace into our hearts and homes on Christmas. As we complete one liturgical year, and prepare to begin another, I encourage us to pray **A Prayer for Peace** by Pope Francis.

*Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!
We have tried so many times and over so many years
To resolve our conflicts by our own powers
And by the force of our arms.
How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced;
How much blood has been shed;
How many lives have been shattered;
How many hopes have been buried.
But our efforts have been in vain.*

*Now, Lord, come to our aid!
Grant us peace, teach us peace;
Guide our steps in the way of peace.
Open our eyes and our hearts,
And give us the courage to say:
"Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost!"
Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.*

*Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love,
You created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters,
Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace;
Enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister.
Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens
Who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace
Our trepidation into confident trust,
And our quarreling into forgiveness.*

*Keep alive within us the flame of hope,
So that with patience and perseverance
We may opt for dialogue and reconciliation.
In this way may peace triumph at last,
And may the words, "division", "hatred" and "war"
Be banished from the heart of every man and woman.
Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands.
Renew our hearts and minds,
So that the word which always brings us together will be "Brother".
And our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! AMEN.*

God bless you in living "Eucharistic lives" of gratitude, generosity, and compassion,

Fr. Mike Naciri