



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Happy 2nd Sunday of Advent!! May each and every one of us make time in our hearts, make time in our lives, make time on our calendars, to actively and prayerfully make room for spiritual growth in these days of **Advent waiting and Advent hope**.

There are many prayers and devotions that guide us and deepen our relationship with God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, our Blessed Mother, St. Joseph, and all of the saints. Some of these prayers are offered in community, some of these prayers are offered privately. Some of the prayers and devotions are handed down from our families, from one generation to the next.

Private devotions deepen our faith and our trust in God. On the back of the missalettes are a number of prayers that you can use for your private prayer, your private devotion. May your time in prayer during Advent assist you in waiting in joyful hope for the birth of our Savior, born of the Blessed Mother.

Last Sunday, on the first Sunday of Advent, while leaving the church after Mass, a family approached me and asked their four year old daughter to recite for me the Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel. With an angelic, four year old voice, before her parents and older and younger sister, this spirited child of God recited the prayer with joy, and with hand gestures for the entire prayer. *"Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into Hell Satan and all other evil spirits who prowl about the world for the ruin of souls. Amen."* This prayer is one of the beautiful prayers printed on the back cover of our missalette.

Unbeknownst to the family, one of our parishioners was behind them as the four year old was praying for Fr. Mike. After the joyous and spirited child finished the prayer with a smile on her face, the parishioner approached the girl and her family saying. "That was wonderful, you just made my Sunday." I must admit, the energy and joy of the child put joy in my heart as she prayed with gestures and with hope. The mom said, "It was the only way to get her to learn the prayer, by teaching her the hand gestures."

What prayers and devotions are part of your Advent journey in joy and hope? Are there prayers, rituals, and devotions handed on from one generation to the next? Praying at home with loved ones, finding time to make prayer a priority in your own life, joining with the community and sharing in the Eucharist will bring graces to our lives this Advent.

Thanks for those who supported the Guild Christmas Sharing Tree this Advent season, with 248 gift cards purchased! Lived hope will be shared with parishioners of Most Blessed Trinity because of your generous support and kindness, helping the Guild of St. Mary in their service.

As we come together next Sunday, Gaudete Sunday, we gather to "Rejoice in the Lord." With joyous hearts and spirits you can bring a bag or two of groceries in your support of the **Pack the Pantry** next Sunday. Donations can be brought to the Green Bay Road parking lot of the parish. Also, on Sunday, December 12, we will be having a Pancake Breakfast following the Masses, in the school cafeteria. All are welcome. I hope to see you there.

The Scriptures this Advent speaks not of what God will do, but of what God is doing. May we recognize and witness generously to others, the work of God in our lives as we prayerfully prepare this Advent as members of the Church of St. Mary.

May God bless us with prayerful preparation in this season of hope,

Fr. Mike Nacur