



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Merry Christmas. We gather in joy, in hope and in awe of God's love incarnate, born in a manger, born of the Blessed Mother, to be the Savior of all humanity. May we pray into our joy, our hope and awe that we may humbly receive the gift offered to all people. We pray together in this Christmas season, today celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany. We share joy, hope, and peace of the Christ Child, concluding the feasts of the Christmas season next Sunday, when we will celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

For those who regularly read my article, you are familiar with the website, **Missio.org**, the web site that promotes the Pope's missions. As we enter into 2022, we are able to be mindful of, support and journey with people around the globe that a generation or two earlier would not have been possible. A recent post from **Missio.org** highlighted the World Mission Rosary of which more information listed here.

By yourself or with loved ones you may offer prayers for the whole world this Christmas by bringing your family together to say the World Mission Rosary. Normally, each decade of the World Mission Rosary is a different color representing a particular area of the world. However, you can still pray for those same intentions no matter the physical Rosary you are using.

What do the colors of the World Mission Rosary signify? Each decade of the World Mission Rosary calls to mind an area where the Church continues her evangelizing mission: **GREEN** for the forests and grasslands of AFRICA; **BLUE** for the ocean surrounding the ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC; **WHITE** symbolizing EUROPE, the seat of the Holy Father, shepherd of the world; **RED** calling to mind the fire of faith that brought missionaries to the AMERICAS, and **YELLOW**, the morning light of the East, for ASIA. In the words of Pope Francis, "The Rosary is a prayer that always accompanies me; it is also the prayer of the ordinary people and the saints...it is a prayer from my heart."

The first decade is for Asia.

The second decade is for the Americas.

The third decade is for Europe.

The fourth decade is for the Pacific Islands.

The fifth decade is for Africa.

This guide makes it easy to follow along and provides additional information about this great prayer. You can unite yourself with others around the world when you join in offering the incredible gift of prayer to our brothers and sisters around the world.

Thanks to every person and household of the Church of St. Mary that has generously supported the parish this Christmas and throughout 2021.

As we enter into a new calendar year, turning the page from 2021 to 2022, what are you leaving behind? How are you filled with hope for the new year? How have you grown in faith and strengthened your trust in God in 2021 to prepare you for what lies before you in the coming year?

"Take action! Live life to the full! And when others see the witness you give, they may ask: 'why do you live this way?'" *Pope Francis*

May God bless our generous hearts with benevolence offered to the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords this Epiphany,