

My Dear Parish Family,

As we continue through these glorious days of Advent, we prepare for the coming of Jesus Christ not only on Christmas Day, but most importantly for eternity.

This Sunday of Advent is called *Gaudete Sunday* or *Rejoice Sunday* and the title of it comes from our Introit that would be chanted for the Mass today. *Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico gaudete. Dominus prope est.* The English translation would be *Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.* It comes from St. Paul's Letter to the Philippians.



In the first two Sunday's of Advent we have heard in our readings and in the collect prayers about preparing for our Lord's coming and the importance of not getting caught up and attached to worldly things. As prayed last Sunday in the collect, *may no earthly undertaking hinder those who set out in haste to meet your Son.* Today it changes a bit and we begin to point to the joy of Christ coming on Christmas Day as we heard in our opening prayer and we rejoice. Why do we rejoice? *The Lord is near* and if *the Lord is near*, our entire life is near.

When God became man He gave us many gifts and a very important one is the Sacrament of Confession. This Sunday December 14th at 2PM at St. Michael's will be a Penance Service to be able to receive the Sacrament of Confession.

I will offer additional times this week to receive this wonderful Sacrament of Mercy as well. Wednesday December 17th it will be available at Mary of the Immaculate Conception from 3-4 pm. Also on Thursday December 18th from 7-8pm at St. Michael's.

There is also the regular time on Saturday from 3-3:45 right before Mass and also at Mary of the Immaculate Conception from 9:15 to 9:45 when I am present for Sunday Mass or after Mass when Fr. Jim is offering. I will be there next Sunday December 21st. The Sacrament of Confession is too great a gift of our Lord to ignore.

Also this Sunday December 14th at 6 pm, Fr. Andrew LaFramboise will be giving a talk on Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *The Joy of the Gospel* at Mary of the Immaculate Conception. We are happy to welcome him back to our Parish and thank him for giving this presentation. All are invited to come!

May God Bless you and Mary keep you,
Fr. Christopher Coman