

## A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

Here are some things worth thinking about as we come into the last week of Advent. It doesn't happen too often that the Fourth Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve. Therefore Sunday Masses end at a certain time and Christmas Eve Vigil Masses begin at 4:00 PM on December 24<sup>th</sup>.

I have tried to explain many times why we cut back on Stone Church Masses in the next two weekends. Sunday and Christmas Eve together make for many Masses to be celebrated by our three priests with no other priest available to assist. I believe that we have sufficient seating capacity for Christmas Masses in the Main Church. It may be tight and perhaps even standing room only at a Mass or two but there is no other way to proceed at this point.

As for our obligations, there is the Sunday obligation and the Christmas obligation. If someone is not well, that person should decide if he/she should go to Mass. The Lord will certainly understand if someone is sick or cannot leave home. As for everyone else, there are Masses on Saturday night and Sunday morning for the Sunday obligation and Masses on Sunday late afternoon, late evening and Monday morning for the Christmas obligation. Perhaps someone may want to make a late Sunday Mass for Fourth Sunday of Advent and a Monday Mass for Christmas. The important thing is that we do not "short change" the Lord at such a blessed time of year. Let's do the best we can to conclude the Advent season and then celebrate the Birth of Christ at two separate Masses. As I said, this doesn't happen often but however the calendar falls, we want to come together and lift our minds and hearts and souls in praise and thanksgiving to God as often as we can. This is especially true at Christmas.

The Lord has done great things for us and we want to show Him our love in return. We can do this in many ways, most importantly by our prayers, words and actions, but be assured your Christmas donations to keep the parish strong are much appreciated! God bless all.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monsignor Gianduro". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.