

A Note from the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

I am writing these notes before Thanksgiving but you are reading them after. At this time, the first Sunday of Advent is only one week away and Christmas Eve comes three weeks after that. (This is really the shortest the Advent Season can be.)

Advent is meant to be a time of preparation for the celebration of the birthday of Jesus. Advent is not as intense as the season of Lent but it is still a penitential season, which means we should try to make some sacrifices and make extra efforts to live our faith.

This year, we are suggesting that everyone choose some of the Works of Mercy on which to focus and put into practice. You can find all of the Works of Mercy listed on the walls in Church, or in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, or on the flyer in this bulletin. Beginning with the children but extending to everyone, we ask that each week you choose one or two Works of Mercy and find the best way to live them. Seeking to make the Advent effort more inviting and symbolic, we propose that everyone write down the act(s) of mercy he or she chose and perhaps how they lived the same. If everyone writes their acts of mercy on thin strips of paper and deposits them in the box in the center aisle of the Main Church or Stone Church, then Jesus will have a comfortable place to lie down, since we will use the strips of paper in the Christmas cribs in each Church.

These are just a few suggestions of how we can all do something extra during Advent. There are other ways, such as extra prayer, fasting, giving to the needy, etc. but this making the bed for the baby Jesus in the manger with acts of mercy seems a fitting and not-too-difficult way to prepare our minds and hearts and souls to celebrate Jesus' birth.

God Bless!

Sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Giandurco