

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

I begin these notes by reporting, with awe and gratitude, that we have reached the two million dollar mark for the Capital Campaign in this parish. I know we are not finished yet because we have more pledges in the office to report and others have said they are going to mail in their pledges. It really is amazing that, even in challenging times, people trust that the Church can do good things (meaning God's work). For my part, I promise to use our parish's portion of the funds to make our parish stronger, just as we priests promise to do our very best at spiritually nurturing God's family in this place.

As we begin the Advent season, we should all make every effort to recall the promises of Christ. Jesus said he is with us until the end of time, when he will come again in glory. The first time he came into the world as a tiny child, it was in humility. When Jesus returns in glory, there will be no denying his power and his call to his holy ones. In living our faith as members of his body, the Church, we seek to be united with Christ here on earth and forever in heaven. In the first part of Advent, we are asked to focus more on Christ's second coming. In the latter part of Advent, we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birth. We will celebrate his birthday on Christmas. We desire to follow him and we look to him as the Way and the Truth and the Life always.

I am grateful to God for our parish and the larger Church. It is not without its failures and sins, but there is holiness because Christ is the head of the Church and the gates of the netherworld (sin and death) shall not prevail against it. The Lord will purify and heal his Church and help us along the journey to heaven. Never forget, he gave us the sacraments. I pray that each of us will continue to do all the good we can in Jesus' name and rely on his help.

Blessed Advent everyone!

Gratefully in Christ,

Monsignor Giandurco