

A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

The Rose colored candle is lit this weekend which means the Advent season is winding down. We rejoice in the blessings of our faith even as we look for Christ to come to us with even greater grace and strength. We believe he will return in glory but he never leaves us on our own. We prepare now to celebrate his birth with joy.

I simply want to say a few words about two issues which take effect soon.

For the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day there will be no distribution of the Precious Blood in the chalice. There are many people in Church those days (people who are often not present) and it is better to avoid the congestion at communion time. There is also the consideration of cold and flu season. So in addition to those Masses, we will suspend distribution of the Precious Blood at all Masses from January 1st until Holy Thursday, April 18th. I am aware that some people are not pleased with this, but many (including many in the medical field) feel this is a prudent way to proceed.

Another issue about which some people are sad is the change in the Mass schedule (only one Mass at 9:45am) at the Stone Church starting on Sunday, January 6, 2019. I have explained previously that it has become necessary to reduce the Mass schedule since we have no weekend assistance of a visiting priest for Sunday Masses. In the future, it may even be unlikely to have three full-time priests assigned to this parish due to the shortage of priests, but we are fine in that regard for now. I truly wish we could keep two Masses on the schedule for Sundays at the Stone Church but the reality is we have plenty of space for parishioners at the Main Church on Sundays. The fact that the Stone Church Masses overlap with Masses in the Main Church makes scheduling too tight. I trust everyone will understand that we are doing our best to serve all of the parishioners in this wonderful parish. May Advent continue to be a time of preparation for a Blessed Christmas.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "o" at the end.