

Greetings from the Pastor' s Desk

I want to say thank-you for all the cards and well-wishes for my birthday. Your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity are appreciated.

With Thanksgiving now passed, hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday, we move our focus to the Advent season and work our way towards Christmas.

Advent, of course, marks the beginning of a new liturgical year. The Church year begins with the First Sunday of Advent. Like everything else in the universe, especially living beings, each of us from birth to death, is under the influence of the rhythms of nature and its relentless laws. However, we are not totally or blindly submissive to this determinative and cyclical regularity.

Accordingly, to the conception in the Bible, our time-the time of our life-is qualified and determined not by chance or the whims of nature or the stars, but by our own responsibility. Time not only involves perpetual new beginnings; it also involves the dynamic direction of the lives of individuals and nations--the entire universe---towards God. So, we begin a new journey, a new liturgical year is underway as we celebrated the First Sunday of Advent challenging us to be patient, to watch, to be on guard, to pray constantly, to prepare. We are reminded that Advent has a double purpose as a season to indeed prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered; as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and hearts to await Christ's second coming at the end of time.

Several things to bring to one's attention as the month of December is upon us. Wednesday December 8 is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Mass times for the feast are 9:00am Wednesday Dec. 8 at SMG. and 5:30pm at MOLOP. Since Christmas December 25 falls on Saturday, the Mass schedule is as follows:

Friday December 24 (Christmas Eve) and Saturday December 25 (Christmas Day) will be the normal weekend Mass Schedule--

Friday December 24

Saturday December 25

4:00pm Mass at SMG

8:30am Mass at MOLOP

5:30pm Mass at MOLOP

10:00am Mass at SMG

PLEASE NOTE: NO 4:00pm or 5:30 EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY. Mass for Sunday Dec. 26 will as usual. 8:30am MOLOP, 10:00am SMG.

Please mark your calendars and make plans to us for our joint parish mission Rediscovering the Warmth of God's Love which gets underway the weekend of January 8-9, 2022.

A Blessed Advent to all of you.

Father Tony