

~PEACE~

My Dear Friends in Christ,

I would like to thank everyone for the wonderful Birthday wishes. It was a very nice day and I am pleased I was able to share it with all of my parishioners from St. Anthony's/St. Mary's. You helped to make it a very special time.

I would like to thank Greg McDonald organizing the Notre Dame College Christmas concert at St. Mary's on Sunday. The performance was very beautiful.

I was very pleased to see so many of St. Anthony's and St. Mary's parishioners at the St. Anthony 200 club dinner. It was a very enjoyable evening with plenty of good food, fellowship and entertainment from the Edison Stage Band. Thank you St. Anthony's Pastoral Council members, Jennifer Thayer and Heidi Villa for all of your hard work in organizing this wonderful event. I am looking forward to more celebrations with both of our parishioners in attendance.

What an exciting time of year we are in as we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ. How is your Advent going? We are now officially in the second week. Are you being challenged by the busyness of the season: Shopping, Christmas cards, parties, decorating and all of the extras that tend to put so much pressure on us and take away our focus, our energy?

I would invite you to find a quiet place, even if it is only for a few minutes, and spend some time with your favorite scripture reading, reading on the birth of Jesus or on the life of Christ. I find this to be a great way to reenergize your spirit.

In our Gospel this week we are challenged by the message of repentance and turning away from sin, making our paths straight. John was telling the people to prepare for the coming of the king, we too must prepare for His second coming. I invite you to consider for a moment areas you may need to work on. The truth is that all of us still have preparations that need to be made, and that is o.k. Let us continue to make our preparations and repent from any habit that could lead us to sin.

The sacrament of Reconciliation is a very special way to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Savior. I am offering a day of grace at St. Anthony's on December 11, 9:30 – 10:30; 1:00 – 2:00 and from 6:00-7:00 p.m. On December 14, I will have a day of grace at St. Mary's from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.; 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. and from 6:00 – 7:00. We also have our Deanery Penance service this weekend, Sunday, December 9 @ 3:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Parish. I hope you will take advantage of the extra opportunities to receive this sacrament of peace.

I am pleased to be serving as your pastor and celebrating this season with all of my parishioners.

May this season of Advent continue to be filled with God's grace and peace.

Fr. Francis Mariadas SAC