



FROM THE DESK OF FR. RICH

Today we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a new Liturgical Season.

In our first reading we hear from the prophet Isaiah, who dreamed of a day when Jerusalem (sometimes called Zion) would be the center of the world, and all people would come there to receive instruction from God. Today, Isaiah presents a vision of peace and prosperity for the whole world.

Behind everything Paul wrote was his strong belief that the hour of Christ’s return in glory was near at hand. In our second reading today, Paul uses the image of darkness and light to describe how Christians ought to live as they await that coming.

We have once again purchased the “Little Blue Books” for you to use as another way of coming to appreciate the rich meaning and traditions of the Advent and Christmas Season. Please be sure and take a copy home or to work with you. These books make great companions for meditation and for interesting reading. They will be available at all masses until all are gone.

Our 2026 Parish calendars are now available. You can pick one up on your way out of church at all the exit doors. Please be sure to pick one up. They will be available at these doors until all are taken.

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be celebrated on

Monday, December 8th. This celebration of Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, being born without original sin is a holy day of obligation in our Church. For this reason, all Catholics should be attending Mass on this day. Our schedule of Masses on Monday, December 8th is:

- 7:00 a.m. at Our Lady, Mother of the Church
- 9:00 a.m. at St. Eugene
- 4:00 p.m. at Our Lady, Mother of the Church
- 7:00 p.m. at St. Eugene

Please join us as we honor and celebrate Mary’s Immaculate Conception.

Christmas Oplatki (wafer) is now available in the gathering space at the back of church and at the parish office during normal business hours, for those who wish to share in this beautiful custom at their Christmas family meals. This Christmas Wafer is a Christmas tradition celebrated in Poland (Oplatki), Lithuania (Kaledaitis), Slovakia and some regions of Italy. This wafer is identical in composition to the host that is used during a Catholic Mass. It is usually embossed with Christmas related religious images, varying from the nativity scene, especially the Virgin Mary with baby Jesus, to the Star of Bethlehem. Family members and friends break off a small piece of the wafer and give it to one another along with a blessing, as a symbol of forgiveness and to remind participants of the importance of Christmas, God, and family. An explanation of how to partake in this custom is provided on the envelope containing the wafer. Each packet contains 4 wafers and is available for \$3.00. Every year we

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run out, so you might want to pick yours up this weekend before they are gone.

There have been so many of our parishioners who have expressed their concern about Fr. Pacocha and ask me daily how he is doing. I spoke with him this past week and he wanted you all to know how much he appreciates your genuine care and concern for him. As you may or may not know he has been dealing with cancer over this past year that required him to do the regiment of chemo treatments. He let me know those have been successfully concluded. The doctors continue to be cautious by having him get other kinds of scans. He tells me he is just weak and more tired these days and finds himself napping more. He reminded me that he is almost 90 years old! He is eating well and when I spoke to him, he sounded great. I asked him if he had any intentions on coming back to “work” to resume his former activities here at Queen of Peace. He kindly but assuredly said he did not think so. I encouraged him to stop by the office more often, as he was previously so accustomed to doing, because it would be good for parishioners to see him. He assured me he would make a more concerted effort to do so. If anyone would like to drop him a line or two you can drop off your messages, notes or cards at the parish office. We’ll make sure he gets them.

Happy Advent to all in our parish!

Fr. Rich Yanos

