



FROM THE DESK OF FR. RICH

This weekend, we celebrate the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

The book of Sirach was written by a wise teacher who lived 200 years before Christ. Sirach ran a school for young people in Jerusalem. In today's passage, he advises his students on the proper way to honor their parents.

The letter to the Colossians was written around the year 80 A.D. A major concern in this letter is how the Christian community appears to outsiders. The author offers guidelines so that Christian families will live in such a way that others will notice the difference.

This past Thursday and throughout the Christmas Season, we as Christians continue to celebrate the great event of Christ's birth. There were among us many family members, friends, and relatives of our parish members. There was also the return of many in our parish who join us only a few times during the year. To each of you, I say welcome! And we are glad that you were and are here with us. The journey of faith is not an easy one. I encourage you to open your hearts and to accept the invitation of taking another look at your faith and its practice in the context of the larger Christian community that gathers weekly here at Queen of Peace Parish. Perhaps this might mean looking at your church from a different perspective. Maybe it might mean asking yourself what **you** can better do to bring about Christ's presence among us, rather than solely expecting the Church to do this for you. After all, **WE**, together, are Christ's Body, the Church here on earth.

Talk to any fully participating and worshipping member here at Queen of Peace, and they will tell you of the great gift Church membership is to them.

I also want to express my gratitude to all in our parish for instilling something so important in me. HOPE! This, in fact, was one of the significant themes of the past Advent Season. Your willingness to take on the daily challenges of parish life, your enthusiasm and desire to meet the growing needs of our community, and the time, energy, and support you give to not only our parish but to one another, give me and our staff reason to keep on looking toward a brighter future for our parish. I have always believed in the old adage that a parish and church are what we are willing to make them, and how much we are willing to give of ourselves to better serve God's people. We are truly blessed here at Queen of Peace as we see all the great things God is accomplishing here through our community, one person at a time. Thank you for helping me and the great majority of us here to continue to be hope-filled.

Merry Christmas to all in our parish community!

Fr. Rich Yanos

