

*A Roman Catholic Presence in Madison since 1805*

# ST. VINCENT MARTYR

*Welcome!*



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 3, 2023

My Dear Parishioners,

Out with the phrase "Happy Holiday greetings," in with "Merry Christmas!" Last Friday was my first Madison Christmas Parade and I loved it. Carlos and I led the SVM float with the creche and Fr. Yojan led our Hispanic parishioners' bus. The whole town was agog with floats representing various groups. Most of all, there was a feeling of Christ in the air that we were preparing to celebrate, not just some watered-down holiday but this holy time of celebrating Jesus who is our Light. Fr. Yojan, Carlos and I joined the mayor on the podium with Santa and Mrs. Claus. It was just great! I said a short prayer reminding people that we are the light of Christ and to keep Christ in Christmas. A big thanks to Marie and Carmen Toto, the Knights of Columbus and all those who organized this great town event.

This weekend, we begin the first week of Advent. During the first two weeks, we prepare for the second coming of Christ. The last two weeks, we prepare to celebrate His birth. As I had mentioned at all the Masses last weekend, we will have confessions this Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm with multiple priests. Two will speak Spanish and English with a total of six priests. Please come any time during that period to prepare for the season of Christmas. It is important that parents bring their children from third grade up so that all the children of our parish will receive the sacrament during this Advent season.

Fr. Yojan and I were thrilled to concelebrate our first Thanksgiving Mass in Spanish and English on Thursday. All the liturgical ministers were comprised of members of our parish. There was an air of true joy in the church and the realization that we all come from different places and spaces, and we are blessed by God and challenged to use our own individual gifts to make God's world a better place.

A huge thank you to Barbara Eutsler and her team, who through your generous donations, were able to meet the mammoth task of providing food baskets, gift cards and support to our local families and to those in the Newark and Paterson area. A big Thank You to everyone.

This weekend, our Antioch kids are having a retreat. The retreat began on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> and concludes with Mass at 3 pm on Sunday. I am very proud of our team leaders who have been working hard these past many months to prepare talks based on Scripture to inspire their younger peers. Let us pray that the younger kids who come to this experience will be strengthened by this weekend spent together. A big thanks to Anne Marie Gisoldi, Joanne Novak and all those who helped in this experience.

This Sunday, December 3, our Bereavement Group will gather for the 5 pm Mass at which I will preside. After Mass, we will have sharing and support. I invite any bereaved to join us for this time together.

Fr. Kris, Fr. Yojan and I are very blessed by the many parishioners who came to spend time in Adoration this past Friday. We look forward to having Adoration every first Friday going forward.

As we call to mind the blessing of the creches and the little figurines, I smile as I consider the many Santas and reindeer on the lovely lawns in our town. I think it is adorable but do consider an outdoor creche as well, reminding your neighbors and the world at large of the reason for the season. Let us keep Christ in Christmas this Advent and Christmas season. Happy Advent!

*Fr. Yojan*

## Mass Intentions



### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

5:00 pm Mary Orlando, Eleanor Cervone, Bill Eutsler, Richie, Linda & Anthony Picone, Lucy Ann Santucci

7:00 pm For the People of the Parish

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

7:15 am Philomena & Saverio Allocco, Joe Kitchell

9:00 am Rose C. Cochario

10:30 am Mike & Madeline Sereno, Ray George, Lucy Santucci

12:00 pm Joe DeMarzo, Carrie Romano, Kelly Esposito, Deceased Members of the Rosary Altar Society

5:00 pm For the People of the Parish

### MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:30 am Anthony Salerno, Park Benjamin III, Anna DeRosa

12:00 pm Joe Kitchell, Kathleen Wesolowski

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

8:30 am Toni Chiarolanzio, Peter Razzo, Sr., Patricia Botelho, Michael & Louise Zincone

12:00 pm Nancy Esposito

### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

8:30 am Bishop Frank J. Rodimer, Vincent Chirico, Eleanor Iannacone, Patrick Kennedy

12:00 pm GinJo Losavio

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

8:30 am Mary Beaman Joseph Kitchell Maria Fanelli

12:00 pm Carol & Joseph Malinconico, Carmen A. Castaldo

### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

#### IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

6:30 am For the People of the Parish

8:30 am Vincent & Catherine Vecchiarelli, Gerardo Bledt, Bill Eutsler, Arlene Kennedy, John Farner

12:00 pm Ann, Frank & Marlene Papa, Nancy Esposito, Lucy Santucci

7:00 pm Tom Walsh

### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

8:30 am Maria Adelina Ferreira, Sean E. Needham

5:00 pm Michael Simonelli, Mary H. Warshany, James & Catherine DePalma, Bill Eutsler, Marty Kunberger

7:00 pm Luisa Verdejo Pellot

### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

7:15 am Robert Baldini, Joan Sodano, Anna DeRosa

9:00 am Jerry, Anna & Jennie Allocco, Lucy Santucci, Jack Kontes

10:30 am Connie & William Bell, Rose LoBosco, Carol & John Svezia

12:00 pm Sam & Margaret Passarella, Bill Liggett, John & Carmela Limone, Mary Beaman

5:00 pm Julia & Roland Romano, Gerardo Bledt

## Sacraments

FOR EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON AND

A TIME FOR EVERY PURPOSE

### ... A TIME TO BE BORN

Matthew Roman Forgione and

Thomas Joseph Forgione and

Emily Sarah Manzo

baptized on November 25, 2023

Luke Thomas Hammond and

Riley Nicole O'Donnell baptized on November 26, 2023



### ...A TIME TO HEAL

Ira Vosper, Andrew Vaccaro, Kevin Conroy,

Tom Farley, Jackie Kruger, Gloria Thomas, Aida Corvelli,

Carol Jarmen, Bonnie Riley, Alice Giordano, Jake Mocko,

Lucyena Vermont, Patricia DeRiggi, Richard Galterio,

Dante Gianfortune, Peggy Dellanno, Joan Graziano,

Sadie Lynn Harrigan, Bobbie Murphy, Marilyn Rand,

Carmela & Hal Moeller, Diego Benitez

### ... A TIME TO DIE

Ruth Brown, Albert Wickens, Ruth Roberta Trotta

Carmine Castellano (Father-in-law of Keith Amling),

Erminia Rossi

**ST. VINCENT MARTYR CHURCH**

**26 GREEN VILLAGE ROAD**

**MADISON, NEW JERSEY 07940**

**PHONE: 973 377 4000 FAX: 973 377 8242**

[www.svmnj.org](http://www.svmnj.org)

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Please submit all Bulletin Articles to [MainOffice@svmnj.org](mailto:MainOffice@svmnj.org)

***Mass Schedule***

Saturday—5:00 pm, 7:00 pm (Spanish)

Sunday—7:15 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am

12:00 pm, 5:00 pm

***Daily Mass***

Monday-Friday 8:30 am, 12:00 noon; Saturday 8:30 am

**Reconciliation Saturday**

7:45 am First Saturday; 4:00-4:30 pm,

6:00-6:45 pm (Spanish)

**Holy Days of Obligation**

6:30 am, 8:30 am

**MASS PRESIDERS SCHEDULE**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9**

5:00 pm—Fr. Owen / 7:00 pm—Fr. Yojan

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10**

7:15 am—Fr. Yojan/ 9:00 am—Fr. Owen

10:30 am—Fr. Kris/ 12:00 pm—Fr. Kris

5:00 pm—Fr. Owen



**2023 DIOCESAN MINISTRIES APPEAL**

**"I HAVE CALLED YOU BY NAME"**

During this season of Advent, we look forward with hope and joy. We invite you to consider a year-end charitable contribution to the Diocesan Ministries Appeal, which serves tens of thousands of people in need. God calls each of us by name to be a light in our communities where giving to the Appeal is a blessing to both the contributor and the recipient. Please make our Diocesan Ministries Appeal a priority in your year-end philanthropy. Gifts can be made by check, through gifts of securities, or credit card or online. May God bless you for your support!

Please consider a donation to the 2023 Diocesan Ministries Appeal. Scan the QR code or visit [www.2023appeal.org](http://www.2023appeal.org) to make a gift today.





## CHRISTMAS OUTREACH



Our annual Christmas outreach is well underway. Each year we have been blessed with a generous and warm response to the poor and struggling in our community, and throughout our Diocese. Because of the generosity of so many of you, we are able to bring some of Christ's light into the lives of many. There are a variety of ways that you can participate if you are interested.



**Giving Tree:** A Christmas tree will be in the church vestibule with gift requests on it beginning Thanksgiving weekend. Anyone interested can take a tag, purchase the gift requested and return it **when you come to Mass on the weekend OR by dropping it off at the parish office during the week**, wrapped and **with the tag attached by December 10**. These gifts go to local families, to Diocesan or county agencies and to poor parishes.

**Donations:** Food cards or financial donations are gratefully accepted. Please call or drop a note to the Social Ministry in the Sunday collection. Food cards or financial donations are always welcome. Please call or drop a note to the Social Ministry in the Sunday collection. Donations made by check should be made payable to: **St. Vincent Martyr – Christmas Outreach**.

**Volunteer:** The process of sorting and bagging gifts is one that takes time so if you have an hour to spare on **Sunday, December 10**, your help would be greatly appreciated. **We will be in the Community Room in the Parish Ministry Center from 9:00am onwards**. If you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Buckley at 201-988-4246 or via email at [jeanneb1967@optonline.net](mailto:jeanneb1967@optonline.net).



The beautiful flowers in the sanctuary at Christmas are given to the glory of God by parishioners who want to remember a loved one or to give thanks for the people and events in their lives. Flowers and decorations enhance our liturgical worship at Christmas and are a wonderful way to remember our loved ones, both living and deceased.

To participate, you can use the envelope included with your monthly packet, Faith Direct or donate on our website: <https://www.svmnj.org/christmas-flower-memorials>



### Christmas Concert

**December 17 at 3 PM**

Please join us for our annual Music Ministry concert on Sunday, December 17 at 3:00pm in the church, followed by light refreshments in the community room. This year's concert will explore the O Antiphons, which are the antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from December 17-23. They are a magnificent theology that uses ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfillment not only of Old Testament hopes, but present ones as well. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. We invite you to join us for an afternoon of musical reflection and prayer.

## ATTENTION: MEN OF THE PARISH



What are the stories we tell others about ourselves? Are these stories really who we are? Using stories and prayer through the framework of the Ignation Spiritual Exercises we will seek to open ourselves more deeply to God's healing grace. Join the men of the Parish for our Annual Retreat under the spiritual direction of the Jesuits in Morristown. The weekend begins with dinner on Friday, January 12th and ends at noon on Sunday, January 14th.

Visit [www.Loyola.org](http://www.Loyola.org) or call Jim Penders at 973-377-8803; Mike Newman at 973-822-2078; Bill Rojack at 973-377-1962 or Steve Penders at 973-443-0570.

## ADVENT OPPORTUNITIES



Dec. 2: **Blessing of our Outdoor Creche** at 6 PM

At this outdoor ceremony, Father Owen will bless our parish Crèche. Please bring a piece or figurine from your own Nativity Set to be blessed at this time. All will gather outside on the Green Village Road patio at 2.

Dec. 3: **Bereavement Night** —in Church after 5 PM Liturgy

Dec. 4: **Advent Penance** —in Church at 6 PM to 8 PM

Dec. 7 Taizé Prayer and Noche de las Velitas—Church at 7 PM

Dec. 8: Feast of the Immaculate Conception—Masses: 6:30 am, 8:30am, 12pm, 7pm, 8pm(sp).

Dec. 12: Celebration of Our Lady of Guadalupe—6PM at Church. (Bilingual) Reception to follow.

Dec. 17: **Christmas Concert**—3 PM at Church

Dec. 20: **Interfaith Prayer** at 6 PM under the Waverly Tree

Advent Bible Study: Tuesdays at 7:15 PM and Wednesdays at 9:15 AM. Register on our website.

### 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT MASS SCHEDULE—DECEMBER 23-24, 2023

Dec. 23: 4th Sunday of Advent Mass Schedule—Gym at 5 PM and 7 PM (Misa en español)

Dec. 24: 4th Sunday of Advent Mass Schedule—Gym at 7:15 AM and 10 AM only



## Winter Bible Study: *Journey to Bethlehem* Begins Dec. 5-6

As we approach the Liturgical Season of Advent and the Christmas story, we will spend time in prayer, study and reflection with the Gospels of the season.

The classes are designed to help us understand the mystery of the **Incarnation**. There is great value in studying scripture in a group so that we might share our faith stories. We are a people of story.

The Course is held once a week for six weeks. All are welcome!

Tuesday at 7:15 pm- Dec. 5, Dec. 19, Jan. 2, 9, 16 OR

Wednesday at 9:15 am- Dec. 6, 20, Jan. 3, 10, 17

Registration and Information at <https://www.svmnj.org/winter-bible> (Zoom or In person)

### FIRST FRIDAYS OF THE MONTH



In XVII century, Jesus asked a French nun, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, to promote devotion to His Sacred Heart on the first Fridays of the month. Following this request, we have introduced to our parish all day long adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Adoration will begin at 9 am and end with benediction at 6 pm, with a break for the noon Mass, on every first Friday of the month. While sign-up is not mandatory, we would like to ask those who plan on attending this prayer time to please sign up at the entrances of the church or through the sign-up genius on our parish website as the Blessed Sacrament cannot be unattended. More information is on our website. Thank you.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AAA62AA2FAC61-46154935-eucharistic#/>

#### Schedule for First Fridays Adorations of the Blessed Sacrament:

January 5, February 2, March 1, April 5, May 3, June 7

*Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us!*

## Stewardship

**"WHAT I SAY TO YOU, I SAY TO ALL: 'WATCH!'"**

Last week we celebrated the feast of Christ the King where we had the opportunity to reflect on all that He has freely given us as our God and King. Now, as we embark on our Advent journey, we can start to think about an action plan as to how we are going to take what He has given us and use it for His purposes. More to the point, we can digest the lessons from the previous weeks and consider our stewardship of the love, gifts and graces He has provided. We can take heed of Jesus' exhortation this week and become, and remain, alert of His presence *now* and be mindful of opportunities to let Him work through us for the betterment of others *now*. May we use these next weeks of Advent to ready ourselves for the celebration of His coming into this world and stand ready in the new year with a laser focus on being Jesus' "good and faithful servant" by putting all that we have and that He has given the great benefit of the world and for His greater glory.



### *Thank you!*

Thank you to Saint Vincent School children and parents who participated in the St. Vincent Martyr Nativity float for the Christmas Parade. To the Girl and Boy Scouts and their leaders, the Spanish Community, and the Knights we thank you. It takes a town like Madison to put this event together and we appreciate your help.

Santa was great but your float said it all...

Jesus is the reason for the season.

### BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY SUPPORT GROUP

Open to parish members over the age of 18 who are interested in sharing prayer, music and fellowship. The group meets monthly in the Parish Center unless otherwise noted. The upcoming meeting dates are Sun. Dec. 3\*\* at 5 pm Mass, Mon. Jan. 8, Mon. Feb. 5, Tues., Mar. 5, Tues., Apr. 9, Mon. May 6 and Mon. June 3\*\* at 6 pm (\*\*meeting in Church). Interested participants can email: [svmbereavement@gmail.com](mailto:svmbereavement@gmail.com) or call 973-520-7221 to sign up and for more information.

### THANKSGIVING OUTREACH

The spirit of generosity and giving is alive and well at SVM! Through your outpouring of support, we were once again able to meet all of our commitments for our annual Thanksgiving Outreach Program. Your donations of baskets, gift cards (more than \$1,900) and financial support (more than \$8,800) allowed the parish to provide the following:

- 101 baskets to local families
- 85 baskets to the Vocationist Sisters in Florham Park who distribute the baskets in Newark
- Shop-Rite gift cards for 120 families whose children are enrolled in the Catholic Charities daycare center in Paterson
- Shop-Rite gift cards for 50 families to St. Agnes Church in Paterson

Thank you to the legions of tireless and faithful volunteers, who help pick up our Shop-Rite orders, process and deliver the baskets locally and to the Vocationist Sisters. A special thank you to the Madison Police Department who have helped us for many years with deliveries. A number of new volunteers joined us this year once again. Hopefully, we didn't scare you off! The success of this Outreach depends on our volunteers and they always come through! I am truly grateful for the energy and hard work you provide. It's backbreaking work but we always close the doors with a smile on our faces. A big thank you to Randal and Tom for setting up and dismantling the tables and chairs needed during an already busy schedule. Thank you to Mrs. Stefanelli and the Christian Formation classes for their generous donations of canned goods, potatoes, etc. and to the group of teens organized by Ms. Gisoldi for the annual scavenger hunt. These items were used to create a number of extra baskets. A special thank you to Sr. Noreen, Ms. Gisoldi, SVM teachers and classes who donated and decorated very full baskets in order to help us meet our commitments. The sounds of joy could be heard loud and clear during the classroom drop offs!

Your tremendous support allowed many families to enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving. Thank you one and all!

Barbara Eutsler, Thanksgiving Outreach Coordinator

### **YOUTH MINISTRY**



1. The Antioch closing liturgy is today, December 3rd at 3pm in the church....all past Antiochers are invited to attend.
2. Alpha Follow up will be this Sunday evening, December 3rd at 7:15 pm-8:30 pm. Please use the direct entrance to the youth ministry center.
3. The winter Antioch first follow up is this Wednesday, Dec, 6th at 7:15 pm in the youth center, Please use our direct entrance,
4. The spring Antioch first meeting is on Tuesday, December 5th at 7:00 pm in the youth center.
5. Youth family liturgy, Sunday, Dec.10th at 5pm in the church. Plan on joining us for this advent celebration....Mark your calendars now!

### **FAMILY PROJECT FOR ADVENT—JESSE TREE**

The word *Advent* comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means a coming, approach, or arrival. In the Church, it refers to the period encompassing the four Sundays prior to Christmas. It is a time of penance, of turning away from sin and hopeful, joyous preparation for the coming of the Savior.

This is what makes Advent special for Christians: the recognition that Christmas is not just "the birthday of Jesus," but a celebration of his coming into our world *today*, here and now. (From the source Teaching Catholic Kids).

One way that you can prepare to fully celebrate Advent with your families is to make a Jesse tree with your young children. We will distribute one per family to make as a home activity this weekend at all the masses. The Jesse tree is to be decorated with ornaments based on symbols of Old Testament events preparing for the coming of Christ. For further information and explanations please see: <https://www.simplycatholic.com/the-jesse-tree/>



**K of C Free Family Chess  
Clinics  
Began 11/21—still time  
to join**



Where - K of C Hall next to Holy Family  
Gym

For - 3rd to 8th Graders / Time - 6:30 to 8:00pm

Contact - Joe O'Brien [via joeob84@yahoo.com](mailto:joeob84@yahoo.com) or  
201-725-7661





### Program

Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>

6:00 pm Multicultural Rosary.

6:35 pm Procession of Couples as they enter the church holding chandeliers as a symbol of prayer for the families.

6:40 pm Procession of Children as they enter the church as a reminder that Our Lady of Guadalupe is the Patroness of Life.

6:50 pm Procession with the Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Inside the Church).

7:00 pm Holy Mass by Rev. Canon Owen B. Moran

8:15 pm A Procession with the Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe (Outside the Church).

8:20pm Ethnic Food , raffles, dances, and Mariachi music.

### **Volunteers needed.**

You can join the great celebration of our Lady of Guadalupe as a volunteer by collaborating on the following committees:

1. Decorating the Church.
2. Parking.
3. Decorating the Gym and serving food in the Gym.
4. Ushers and Welcoming.
5. Children accompanying the virgin dressed as angels.
6. Cleaning the Gym.
7. Donating water, sodas, desserts, cookies, pizza, and snacks.

If you want to collaborate, please contact Andrés Mosquera 973 896 0777 ([andretto@gmail.com](mailto:andretto@gmail.com)) or Jenny Benitez 973 377 4000 Ext 257 ([jenny.ramirez@svmnj.org](mailto:jenny.ramirez@svmnj.org))

### **Roses in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

If you want to place your intentions through the intercession of our Lady of Guadalupe, you can purchase a bouquet of roses that will be placed in the floral arrangements of the Virgin on the day of the party (The cost is 20 dollars) On the day of the party your name will appear on a banner. (This can be purchased online on the parish website with Kathleen Sanchez) [kdsanchez02@gmail.com](mailto:kdsanchez02@gmail.com).

### **T-shirt in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe**

At the end of the masses, you can purchase the t-shirt for the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe version 2023 – Praying for Peace (You can also purchase it online on the parish website with Kathleen Sanchez) [kdsanchez02@gmail.com](mailto:kdsanchez02@gmail.com).

### **Wear a white garment.**

Everyone is invited to wear a White garment as a symbol of the prayer we will make for the peace.

### **Candles for the Peace.**

On the day of the feast, we will light a royal candle as a sign of hope and light that shines amid darkness where there is division and war. That candle will have the image and prayer of Our Lady of Guadalupe so that we can take it home and remember to pray for our brothers who suffer. We will ask our Lady, Queen of Peace, to take our request to the Prince of Peace.

All parish groups are invited to join this great celebration; this is a parish event.

Novena in honor of our Lady of Guadalupe in preparation for this magnificent event (Starts Sunday December 3 and 10, English after the Holy Mass at 7:15am, December 4 – 9 and 11, English after the Holy Mass at 7:15am) (Spanish December 3 – 11 at 6am).



## Do not miss the Great Celebration in honor of Our Lady Of Guadalupe



Our blessed day will include the following:

Holy Mass.

Multicultural Dinner buffet. (In the Gym)

Dancers from Paraguay, México, etc.

Mariachi Band performing live.

Candles for Peace and Our Lady of Guadalupe's handkerchief will be gifted to remind you that Jesus and the Blessed Mother are on your side when you have joyful and sorrowful moments, you can light the candles at home and feel the presence of the Lord, and how Jesus leads our lives the right way. You can embrace the handkerchief as a reminder that God and the Blessed Mother are embracing you in their tenderness and love for each one of us.

Notes:

If you want to buy T-Shirts or rose bouquets as a sign of your petitions of the Blessed Mother please contact Kathleen [kdsanchez02@gmail.com](mailto:kdsanchez02@gmail.com)

If you would like to help, please contact Andres Mosquera at 973-896-0777 or Jenny Benitez at 973 - 377- 4000 ext 257.

### **"TE HE LLAMADO POR TU NOMBRE"**

Durante esta temporada de Adviento, esperamos con esperanza y alegría. Te invitamos a considerar hacer una contribución caritativa de fin de año a la Campaña para los ministerios diocesanos, la cual sirve a decenas de miles de personas en necesidad. Dios nos llama a cada uno de nosotros por nombre a ser una luz en nuestras comunidades, donde al dar a la Campaña es una bendición para ambos el contribuyente y el beneficiario. Por favor haz una prioridad a nuestra Campaña para los ministerios diocesanos en tu filantropía de fin de año. Se pueden hacer donativos con cheque, por medio de valores y títulos, o tarjeta de crédito o por internet.

¡Que Dios te bendiga por tu apoyo! Por favor considera dar una donación a la Campaña para los ministerios diocesanos 2023. Escanea el siguiente código QR o visita [www.2023appeal.org](http://www.2023appeal.org) para hacer un donativo hoy.



# San Vicente Mártir

3 de diciembre de 2023  
Experiencia Hispana

Mis queridos feligreses,

Fuera la frase "Saludos de felices fiestas", adentro "¡Feliz Navidad!" El viernes pasado fue mi primer desfile de Navidad en Madison y me encantó. Carlos y yo lideramos el camión SVM y el P. Yojan dirigió el autobús de nuestros feligreses hispanos. Todo el pueblo estaba entusiasmado con las carrozas que representaban a varios grupos. Sobre todo, había un sentimiento de Cristo en el aire que nos estábamos preparando para celebrar, no solo unas vacaciones diluidas sino este tiempo santo de celebrar a Jesús, quien es nuestra Luz. P. Yojan, Carlos y yo nos unimos al alcalde en el podio con Santa y la señora Klaus. ¡Fue simplemente genial! Dije una breve oración para recordarle a la gente que somos la luz de Cristo y que debemos guardar a Cristo en la Navidad. Un gran agradecimiento a María y Carmen Toto y a todos los que organizaron este gran evento municipal.

Este fin de semana comenzamos la Primera semana de Adviento. Durante las primeras dos semanas nos preparamos para la segunda venida de Cristo. Las últimas dos semanas nos preparamos para celebrar su nacimiento. Como mencioné en todas las Misas del fin de semana pasado, tendremos confesiones este lunes 4 de diciembre de 6 a 8 pm con varios sacerdotes. Dos hablarán español e inglés con un total de seis sacerdotes. Por favor venga en cualquier momento durante ese período para prepararse para la temporada navideña. Es importante que los padres traigan a sus hijos desde tercer grado en adelante para que todos los niños de nuestra parroquia reciban el sacramento durante este tiempo de Adviento.

P. Yojan y yo estábamos encantados de concelebrar nuestra primera Misa de Acción de Gracias en español e inglés el jueves. Todos los ministros litúrgicos estaban compuestos por miembros de nuestra parroquia. Había un aire de verdadera alegría en la iglesia y la comprensión de que todos venimos de diferentes lugares y espacios, y somos bendecidos por Dios y desafiados a usar nuestros propios dones individuales para hacer del mundo de Dios un lugar mejor.

Un enorme agradecimiento a Barbara Eutsler y su equipo, quienes a través de sus generosas donaciones pudieron cumplir con la gigantesca tarea de proporcionar canastas de alimentos, tarjetas de regalo y apoyo a nuestras familias locales y a las del área de Newark y Paterson. Muchas gracias a todos.

Este fin de semana, nuestros niños de Antioch tendrán un retiro. El retiro comenzó el viernes 1 de diciembre y concluye con la Misa a las 3 pm del domingo. Estoy muy orgulloso de los líderes de nuestro equipo que han estado trabajando arduamente estos últimos meses para preparar discursos basados en las Escrituras para inspirar a sus compañeros más jóvenes. Oremos para que los niños más pequeños que vienen a esta experiencia se sientan fortalecidos por este fin de semana que pasamos juntos. Un gran agradecimiento a Anne Marie Gisoldi, Joanne Novak y a todos los que ayudaron en esta experiencia.

Este domingo 3 de diciembre, nuestro Grupo de Duelo se reunirá para la Misa de las 5 pm que yo presidiré. Después de la Misa, compartiremos y apoyaremos. Invito a todos los afligidos a unirse a nosotros en este tiempo juntos.

P. Kris, P. Yojan y yo estamos muy bendecidos por los muchos feligreses que vinieron a pasar tiempo en Adoración el viernes pasado. Esperamos tener Adoración cada primer viernes en el futuro. Mientras recordamos la bendición de las guarderías y las figuritas, sonrío al considerar los muchos Papá Noel y los renos en nuestro hermoso césped. Creo que es adorable, pero considere también una guardería al aire.

libre, para recordar a sus vecinos y al mundo en general el motivo de la temporada. Mantengamos a Cristo en la Navidad en esta temporada de Adviento y Navidad. ¡Feliz Adviento!

*Jr. Ova*



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