

St. Michael the Archangel

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Dear Parish Family,

Last Tuesday we celebrated the feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is a dogma of our faith that states that the Virgin Mary was free of original sin from the moment of her conception. Pope Pius IX in 1854 established the feast and as a doctrine of our faith.

On Saturday, we will honor Mary with another feast - Our Lady of Guadalupe. We recall Her marvelous appearance at Tepeyac and her invitation to pray. She called for a church, a place for people to gather and to celebrate the Eucharist and worship God. Millions have made a pilgrimage to the site of this miracle. The feast day should always be a reminder to us of our need for each other as a faith community in prayer and the sacredness of dedicated churches. God miraculously interrupted the laws of nature with the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe who called for a sacred place to gather and worship God. How awesome!

The church is not an auditorium or a theater. It is the "Holy of Holies". Jesus is present in the Eucharist, reposed in the tabernacle. To genuflect or bow is acceptable behavior when entering or leaving the Catholic Church. I am totally edified by the parents who have taught this reverence of the sacred to their children. It calls me to greater awareness of the presence of Jesus.

This weekend we celebrate Gaudete Sunday - Rejoice! Here we are at the third Sunday of Advent. The liturgy and prayer of the church call us to rejoice. Christmas is nearly here. The second coming of Jesus is getting close. If you had not done so yet, let me especially again invite you and the family to come together and go to confession - to seek peace with God and each other. The family is God's idea and the plan for His creation. We need to pray for each other and with each other. The world and the devil want to destroy the family. We know Jesus is present where two or three are gathered in His name. Wouldn't it be a more glorious Christmas celebration when we are reconciled with God and one another?

Peace!

Fr. Dwight