

Dear Friends,

A very happy First Sunday of Advent, and a happy New Calendar Year in the Church.

Again we begin the liturgical year, but hopefully not in the same “place” we were in last year. Hopefully, we have grown closer to Christ in the past year, through our blessings and joys, through our challenges and sorrows. And again the Church provides this season of Advent as a type of retreat so we may prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Savior, not simply remembering his birth, but preparing for his coming again in glory.

These days are very busy for all of us. The planning. The socials. The shopping. The excitement of seeing family and friends. In all of this busyness, we **owe ourselves** a chance to be quiet, to recover even if only for a short while, and to spend that time with the Lord in prayer. We don't even have to “say” anything. Just BE with Jesus and let him do the talking! Take time to remember that the focus of this season is on Emmanuel and not on Black Friday, Cyber Monday, or any of the commercialism that haunts us these days.

May the Lord fill us with patience and peace. May we make time daily to welcome him into our lives. And may the blessings of Christ be with us throughout this Advent season.



Father Fred