

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

The Second Sunday of Advent challenges us to prepare a royal highway in our hearts for Jesus so that we may receive Him as our saving God during Christmas. We should also be prepared for Christ's daily coming into our lives in the Holy Eucharist, in the Holy Bible and in the praying community. We are asked to be ready to meet Jesus as our Judge on His *Second Coming*, at the end of our lives and at the end of the world.

John the Baptist, in today's Gospel, challenges the Jews to prepare their lives for receiving their long-awaited Messiah. They have to prepare a highway in their hearts for their Messiah by leveling the mountains of pride and valleys of impurity and injustice and omissions and by straightening their crooked ways. They are to get ready by repenting of their sins, renewing their lives, and expressing their repentance by receiving the baptism of repentance in the River Jordan.

We need to prepare our hearts and lives for Jesus our Savior to be reborn in us during this Christmas time. We have to fill in the "valleys" of our souls, formed from our shallow prayer life and a minimalist way of living our Faith. We have to straighten out whatever crooked paths we've been walking, like involvement in some secret or habitual sins or in a sinful relationship. If we have been involved in some dishonest practices at work or at home, we are called to straighten them out and make restitution. If we have been harboring grudges or hatred, or failing to be reconciled with others, now is the time to clear away all the debris. As individuals, we might have to overcome deep-seated resentment, persistent fault-finding, unwillingness to forgive, dishonesty in our dealings with others, or a bullying attitude. We need to repent and seek forgiveness from God and our fellow human beings: John's message calls us to confront and confess our sins. We need to turn away from them in sincere repentance and receive God's forgiveness. Next, we need to forgive others who have offended us and ask forgiveness for our offenses. Jesus is very explicit about this in Matthew 6:14-15. He says, "For if you forgive men their transgressions, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions."

God Bless You!

Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCD: Catholic Christian Discipleship

Up, Jerusalem! stand upon the heights; look to the east and see your children gathered from the east and the west at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that they are remembered by God (Baruch 5). Jerusalem's children will return to the glory of Jerusalem after their repentance and reawakening to God in their lives. The hymn "People, Look East" which we sing this Advent Season reminds us that east is the direction of the rising sun and in the history of Christianity, the direction of the coming Messiah. Let us look east and prepare for the Son of God.

+ Classes will be held December 12 & 19, and then we will break until January 2nd when classes resume. The Christmas Program will be December 16th at Ss. Peter & Paul and at St. John's.

Blessings and Peace ~ Sr. Marianna

OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul			
Adult Envelopes	\$	732.00	
Loose		129.00	
Total		861.00	
Total from December 3, 2017		1,329.00	
Building Fund		541.00	
Christmas Flowers		105.00	
St. Stanislaus			
Adult Envelopes	\$	305.00	
Loose		67.00	
Total		372.00	
Total from December 3, 2017		685.00	
Building Fund		313.00	
Christmas Flowers		60.00	
St. John			
Adult Envelopes	\$	482.00	
Loose		99.00	
Total		581.00	
Total from December 3, 2017		1,371.55	
Building Fund		316.00	
Christmas Flowers		49.00	
St. Michael			
Adult Envelopes	\$	165.00	
Loose		45.00	
Total		210.00	
Total from December 3, 2017		401.00	
Christmas Flowers		30.00	
<i>(Totals include only the basic collection)</i>			

Called to Become Saints Catholic Services Appeal 2018-2019

Our annual Catholic Services Appeal has begun throughout the Diocese. The "fair share" responsibility for the coming year is listed below. As of November 1st, we have collected:

2018/2019 Catholic Services Appeal

	Assessment	Received	Amount Due
Ss. Peter & Paul	\$ 11,393.00	\$4,930.00	\$6,463.00
St. John	\$ 9,158.00	\$3,280.00	\$5,878.00
St. Stanislaus	\$ 5,234.00	\$2,595.00	\$2,639.00
St. Michael	\$ 2,789.00	\$1,245.00	\$1,544.00

OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

St. John Council of Catholic Women
All Women of the Parish are members
Meetings held 2nd Monday of
every month at 7:00 p.m.

