

## *Pastor's Corner*



My Brothers and Sisters:

The National observance of Thanksgiving is this week. It would take several pages to thank everyone for everything you do for Saint Lawrence; and for others in the name of Saint Lawrence and Our Lord Jesus Christ. And it would be well worth those pages.

I will simply write: Thank You. May Thanksgiving Day be prayerful and peaceful – no matter how many or few people are physically present to you.

Advent begins this weekend; a new Liturgical Year begins. As I have suggested in the past, this is a good time to read the first two chapters of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, which give the accounts of events leading to the Birth of Christ. It is also a good time to read the Gospel of Mark. I say that because, in our three-year cycle of Sunday readings, this year most of our gospel readings will be working through Mark. Mark is the shortest of the gospels, and is very fast-paced.

One thing I noticed back in Lent and Easter – with the lessening of hymns being sung at Mass, I was missing some of the regular environment that helped me enter into those holy seasons. I have found myself singing hymns as part of my private prayer – something I haven't done in the past. It has helped.

I encourage you to sing hymns at home. Play Advent songs and Christmas Songs in the car and when time permits. Needing to limit singing in Church because of how the Coronavirus spreads does not mean our singing cannot go beyond the church walls. In fact – our entire faith is to go beyond the church walls. Let us make up at home what we have to fast from for the time being in Church.

Finally – We are going to have a slightly different schedule for the coming Holy Day. December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, is on a Tuesday this year. We will have 3 Masses available.

- 1) Monday December 7 at 7pm - multi-lingual with emphasis in Spanish.
- 2) Tuesday December 8 at 6:30am – no Musician – trying to be short to get everyone going to work or school out on time. We have no idea how many people to expect – but this may be a good Mass for those worried about being in crowds.
- 3) Tuesday December 7 at Noon. In the past this Mass has not been crowded – it also may be a good Mass for those worried about being in crowds.

In Christ the Risen One,

*Fr. Tom*