



Dear Parishioners,

The journey towards Christmas is one we make at the darkest time of the year. Days are short and the evenings are filled with shadows. We celebrate the birth of our Savior – the light of the world, the light that shines in the darkness.

The candle we light in our homes and Churches at Christmas time reminds us also that we are called to shine the light of Christ in the world. Our community has been able to shine the light of Christ through Offertory Renewal in support of our Mission toward young adult outreach and the formation of small groups; building community by investing in each other.

Earlier this year, Cardinal Newman was canonized. One of his most important works was a poem called “The Pillar and the Cloud”, better known as the hymn ‘Lead Kindly Light’. It contains the powerful imagery of light, including the lines:

***“Lead kindly light, amidst the encircling gloom, Lead thou me on! The night is dark and I am far from home, Lead thou me on!”***

At the canonization Mass on October 13th, Pope Francis called on us all to be “kindly lights” in the darkness.

When we light our Christmas candle, let’s consider where we can be the light of Christ. When we place a lit candle in our windows, as is the tradition for Christmas Eve and Christmas day, do we live out the hospitality it represents? Do we shine the light of love in our families; the light of compassion and kindness for the poor and hurting? How do we offer the light of hope to the less fortunate? As Christians, we make the hearts of non-believers burn within them if we can convey the truth that our religion is not a moral code to keep us in order, but a vibrant way of life that radiates joy.

***“The Christian has a deep, silent, hidden peace, which the world sees not.... The Christian is cheerful, easy, kind, gentle, courteous, candid, unassuming, has no pretense...”***  
***Saint John Henry Newman***

To help surface all those qualities in our lives, we have the parish Advent Penance Service on Monday, December 16th at 7:00pm. I encourage you to prepare for His coming by participating in this healing Sacrament. If you have wandered away from the Catholic Faith, this is a great way to come home for Christmas.

May the Christ child bring home tender love to your family with Christmas blessings in abundance. And may your great generosity in Christ to this community bring its own rewards.

Merry Christmas!

*Very Rev. Nicholas Clavin*

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Pastor