



# The Messenger

December, 2017  
and  
January, 2018

## Morsels of Faith from Mr. Kuhar



The Advent season is a time of preparation. We watch and wait for the coming of Jesus. The Sunday readings at Mass remind us of the importance of being prepared for the coming of our Lord. The coming of our Lord is not just Christmas day where we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus but more importantly when He comes again. This is what we should be watching and waiting for each and every day. When we watch and wait this is not meant to be a passive activity like a ballgame or television show where we grab some popcorn, sit back, and enjoy the entertainment. In fact it is the opposite. The watching and waiting for the coming of Jesus again is one of active preparation.

The way we prepare for the coming of our Lord is to make a space for Him in our heart. Actually it is not just to make a space but to give Him our whole heart. How do you give someone your heart? I think we know the answer to this question. We open up to another. We entrust to them everything. Our deepest fears, worries, and concerns are made known. We share our joy and excitement! They know our quirks and the little things we do like talk to ourselves, make up songs, or do little dances that express the type of mood we are experiencing in the moment. One of the biggest things though is they know our weaknesses. We let down our guard and they know our struggles and trials. We allow them to see us at our worst. Jesus Christ wants you to give Him your heart. He will never let you down or fail you. He will never break your

heart or leave you. He will walk alongside you your whole entire life. This is gift of a relationship with Jesus. This is the peace and joy that comes from falling in love with Jesus. There will be trials and challenges but you will never be alone. There will still be sadness and loss but you will always have Jesus Christ there beside you. This Advent prepare your heart for the Lord and give it to Him. Allow yourself to fall in love with the King of the Universe and help your children and family to do the same.

A few things you can do to prepare is to set aside extra time for prayer each day. Pick up the Bible and read a chapter each day. Buy extra when you are shopping and donate it to those less fortunate. Set up an Advent wreath at home and each night before dinner light a candle and say a prayer as a family. Do good deeds or make sacrifices and each time you do one write it down and place it in a manger to make a bed for Jesus at Christmas. These are just a few ideas to get you started. We spend a lot of time and energy on shopping, on preparing our homes for the company of others which is wonderful but if we neglect our Lord we have missed out on the greatest and most important person in our lives. There is no one who can replace or fill the longing of our heart except for Jesus Christ. Prepare for Him and be amazed at the joy of the peace of the Lord that will be yours this Advent and Christmas.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### December

- 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception -**  
Holy Day of Obligation  
Masses: 9:00 a.m.,  
7:00 p.m.
- 24 Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
Mass: 9:00 a.m.,
- Christmas Liturgy for Children - 4:00 p.m.**
- Christmas Eve Liturgy:**  
6:30 p.m.
- Midnight Mass:**  
12:00 a.m.
- 25 Christmas Day**  
Mass: 10:00 a.m.
- 31 Feast of the Holy Family**  
Masses: 9:00 a.m.,  
11:00 a.m.
- Vigil Mass for Feast of Mary, Mother of God**  
Mass: 4:30 p.m.

### January

- 1 Feast of Mary, Mother of God**

## Cindy's Corner



*I wait for the LORD,  
my soul waits  
and I hope for his word.  
Psalm 130:5*

These past couple weeks the students' lessons have been focusing on the Liturgical Year. I always look forward to this as I am a very Liturgical Year focused person myself. Every turn of the season is a time to start fresh, set goals and to celebrate. I was subbing in a classroom sharing a giant liturgical year wheel with the students. Even after explaining that the longest season of Ordinary Time is not ordinary as we often think of the word, but extraordinary, a student responded, "Isn't this Ordinary Time sorta wasted time? I mean look at all this green." Whoa, he asked the wrong person that question, or maybe the right person, as I rattled off feast days, holy days, gospel stories of the life of Jesus and a few of the past parables we just heard over the last few weeks. Oh, not to mention, but of course I did, that the coming Sunday would be the Feast of Christ the King! I was not defensive but excited at the opening of that can of worms. His questioning was an opportunity as it often is.

By the time you read this, Advent will be upon us, always a relief for me as we are invited to pause, take a breath, and prepare to welcome Jesus in the quiet stillness of our hearts. This reminded me to spend time in some stillness this

morning. What came to me were fond memories of the Mass of the Beatification of Solanus Casey at Ford Field on November 18 along with the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation at our own parish on Sunday, November 26. These Masses alone have delivered to me the Advent gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Some days the greatest of these gifts for me is Hope. Our lives are oftentimes filled to the brim with uncertainty but we can be certain of one thing, God's love for us is overflowing. God has promised that He will not let anything separate us from His love. That hopelessness, anxiety and worry we might feel is lessened through God's promise of His love for us. As His love settles in, peace and joy can also find their way back to us.

I realize that these faith moments in my life have become like the water in a well for me stored up. I can draw on them when I need to be refreshed and renewed (or let's face it, dumped on) in the love of God. Witnessing and participating in something like the Beatification Mass of Solanus Casey runs deep while my everyday faith experiences continually add drops of water to my well. In a way we as parents or catechists, parishioners and Christians can help fill the well of others. We can also share our buckets of water with each other when our wells run dry.

Think of a monumental faith experience in your life; what is this memory causing you to feel now? God is with us in the memory of that moment; His love is eternal, certain,

steadfast. Maybe this Advent you could plot out on your calendar a new Catholic faith experience for your family. That experience could very well become a part of that something they could draw on to see them through the uncertainties of the moment. Where have you found your Emmanuel-our "God with us"- this past month, week, this morning? His love is revealed not only in those big and obvious faith experiences but also in our everyday routine, challenges, sufferings and joys. His love is inseparable and overflowing. It is revealed to us when we take a moment to be still.

Thinking again of the Celebration of Confirmation last Sunday, as the last few students approached Bishop Fisher, I heard the words, "**Solanus**, be sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit". "Amen!" responded the student. "Peace be with you.", "And with your spirit." My already wide smile widened. How wonderful, somebody chose our newly Blessed Solanus Casey as their saint name for Confirmation. That moment will stay with me; who would have ever known?

Of course, our Emmanuel!

