

(Wednesday Audience - Continued from the bulletin)

new light of the Resurrection. Only this event is capable of illuminating the mystery of death to its full extent. In this light, and only in this, what our heart desires and hopes becomes true: that death is not the end, but the passage towards full light, towards a happy eternity. The Risen One has gone before us in the great trial of death, emerging victorious thanks to the power of divine Love. Thus, he has prepared for us the place of eternal rest, the home where we are awaited; he has given us the fullness of life in which there are no longer any shadows and contradictions. Thanks to Him, who died and rose again for love, with Saint Francis we can call death our “sister”. Awaiting it with the sure hope of the Resurrection preserves us from the fear of disappearing forever and prepares us for the joy of life without end.

From the Pastor's Desk

It is my most sincere hope that everyone is experiencing a prayerful and hope filled Advent season, and also an especially joyful one as we celebrate Gaudete Sunday this weekend. Our hearts are to be filled with joy because of the proximity of Jesus' coming, now less than two weeks away. Perhaps this weekend, if you participated in our prayer partner project, you could ask the Lord to fill your prayer partner with joy as the anxiety of the season is reaching a fever pitch. In fact, all of us should ask for joy for the hearts of all those whom we pray for at any time as we reach this monumental stage in this wonderful season in which we anticipate the coming of the Lord.

Unfortunately, I need to draw attention to a matter that caused me great consternation and sorrow that happened during Masses on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception this past week. At both Masses, during the second half of the consecration, cell phones were off during Mass. On both occasions, the phones were not silenced until after the elevation, the Memorial Acclamation, and beginning of the second part of the Eucharistic prayer. What occurred at 12:05 PM Mass is what disturbed me the most. When I was about to begin the second half of the Eucharistic prayer, the individual who received the call was texting a response on her cell phone. I paused (pregnantly) thinking she would stop but she continued. I had to continue with the prayer; however, I was deeply offended – not for my own sake – but for the Lord's. I could go on at great length about how disrespectful this was to the sacrament and to others around her; however, I will just BEG YOU – PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES BEFORE MASS BEGINS. I would think that the reasons would be obvious; however, they apparently were not for this individual. This is the third time that something like this has happened within the last three months. I really hope that it will not happen again. The celebration of the Mass is too important for such a careless interruption to occur. As always, if

you think that you are going to receive a call that needs to be answered either place your phone on vibrate and then leave the nave of the Church to take the call or leave the nave before the Eucharistic prayer begins so that you can receive a call that would, I hope, be related to an emergency. The Eucharist is the most important thing that we do as Catholic Christians. Its celebration must always be held as SACRED!!!

Angel Tree 2025 – Thank you to EVERYONE who so generously took an angel from our Angel Tree this year (I heard that some individuals took two or more 😊). I am sure that God will bless you for your generosity! **A gentle reminder**, please be certain to return your Angel Tree gifts NO LATER THAN December 21st before mass. Thank you again!



Turkey Raffle Summary 2025 –

Profit

Parish Tickets	\$1814.00
Second Collection	\$773.00
Private Donations	\$52500
Turkey Raffle	\$6665.00
Total	\$9777.00

Expenses

Habits	\$224.84
Seder Gaming – Rip offs	\$190.00
Randy’s BiLo	\$1497.00
Advertising	\$286.25
Miscellaneous	\$34.92
Total	\$2233.01

Final Profit **\$7543.99**