



## Saint Joseph Catholic Church

711 N. Columbus Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
703-836-3725

### ADVENT 2020

Dear Members of Saint Joseph Parish:

Clearly, we have been in an unusual year and it looks like the pandemic will affect our Advent and Christmas seasons as well. As we have been doing so far, we will continue to make the most of a challenging situation.

First, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your support, love and understanding during these past several months. You have been great, and I am thankful. We have been doing our best to continue on with things as best we can, with the resources that we have.

And now here we are in the Season of Advent! Some things to note about it: it begins the new church year; with it we change our gospel guide from Matthew to Mark, (it's called Year B), and if ever you wondered what the four advent candles stood for, you can see that at the top of this page.

The first part of Advent speaks to us of the purpose of this New Year of Grace – our own salvation – being ready for the end-time; and the second part prepares us for understanding and celebrating Christmas itself, God taking upon Himself the human condition to accomplish the world's salvation.

Unlike other years where you picked up your own advent materials in the church, this year you are receiving it in the mail. Enclosed with the mailing are the booklet **And the Word Was God**, your 2020 Advent Calendar to post on the refrigerator for a quick read, ***and on the back of this letter is our Advent/Christmas/New Year's schedule for easy reference.***

In these strange times, please make every effort to be faithful to your Advent undertaking. The Advent booklet begins on Sunday, November 29, the First Sunday of Advent. Designate a certain part of your day for your short Advent reflection. The booklet is filled with spiritual truths from the Holy Scriptures – the Word of God, along with prayer and reflection for each Advent day.

If you need more of these materials, please let us know. Also, we do have copies of the 2021 St. Joseph Sunday Missal and the Large Print Missal as well. These books begin on Sunday, November 29, and the cost per book is \$5.00. If you would like copies of the 2021 Parish Calendar – The Josephite Black Arts History and Cultural calendar, please let us know. To get these items it is best for you to call or email the rectory and let us know when you would like to pick them up.

Let us continue to pray fervently for the end to the Covid virus. Let us help that cause along by taking our own precautions of wearing masks, frequent hand washings, and maintaining social distance for the safety of others and ourselves. Please be especially careful at family and social gatherings when necessary over the next several weeks.

With every good wish and blessing for a truly inspired Advent, I remain  
Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Rev. Donald M. Fest, S.S.J.*  
Pastor