

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Happy New Year! I pray that you had a Merry Christmas surrounded by friends and family and have rung in the New Year with hope and joy. I imagine that many of us have some resolutions that we are excited about. Some of us may be looking to be a little healthier. I know I find myself in that boat looking to lose a few pounds. My problem is once I lose them I find them right away! Maybe there are others who have some goal of self-improvement to be kinder, gentler, or more patient. I think also of all the families that are anticipating something exciting in 2023. Retirement, marriage, baptism, graduation, anniversaries and many more wonderful celebrations. All of these are wonderful things!

Have any of us thought about becoming holier in 2023? For all the resolutions we make every year, do we ever commit to holiness? I hate to admit it, but I have not. I always think of health or weight loss, but I don't think I've ever used the "New Year Resolution" in terms of my spiritual life. How can we live the virtues and grow in holiness?

This starts with simple habits. Making sure that we pray every day even if it is just for a few minutes. Coming to Mass every weekend. Availing ourselves of the sacraments, especially reconciliation. These are all gifts from God, through His Church, that help us on the path to holiness. The awesome thing about God is that our relationship can always go deeper. God never gets old and thus holiness never gets old. In Advent we offered the 1% challenge along with other awesome Advent resources. It is a challenge to spend 1% more of your day, about 15 minutes, with God. How about if we carry that challenge into the new year? What if we took 2% of our day, 30 minutes, to spend with God? We offer Eucharistic Adoration every Monday night from 4PM – 9PM. Perhaps there is a chance to stop into church on your way home to spend time with Jesus. Praying in the car is a good and creative way to spend time with God when the schedules get crazy.

In a world that is turning away from God we cannot afford to sit back and watch. Our baptismal call to holiness and discipleship has never been more important. I hope you join me in this New Year Resolution to be holier in 2023 than we were in 2022. Please join me, also, in hopeful prayer for a healthy and prosperous year.

Holy Mary Mother of God...pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz

Parish Administrator