

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

Where does the time go? Tuesday, November 26th was the one-year anniversary of my installation as your pastor. The anniversary has caused me to look back at the many pictures and recall so many wonderful memories. One of my memories is that afternoon I was feeling a bit anxious and we still had two or three hours until the Mass started. I was alone in the church and remembered a prayer we had done as a parish staff just several days prior. It is called “praying the pews”. The objective of this prayer is to walk through and sit in the pews at different points throughout the church and pray for those who are not there. It is a prayer that God might touch the hearts of those who are not coming to church for whatever the reason. Well, that afternoon I did that but with a different objective. I “prayed the pews” for all those who are here and especially for all those who have come before us. With a history of over 180 years, thousands and thousands of souls have sat in our pews. I am the 35th pastor of our parish and what a wonderful lineage of pastors it is. As I reflect on this past year I find myself immensely grateful for the three and a half years I have been with you and, in particular, for this past year as your pastor. I think of all the people we have welcomed to our parish. We have grown in so many ways from our outreach, to the school and our discipleship efforts. As time goes on I have the privilege of entering into your lives in deep and profound ways – both in the joys and struggles of life. Trust me, I know that is sacred space and for all the ways you have trusted me and continue to trust me, I say with sincerity thank you! I continue to be truly blessed and deeply honored to be your pastor.

I suppose I should also wish you a Happy New Year! Yes, we have reached the Advent season and, with that, have ushered in a new liturgical year. This season of preparation is one that finds us in one of the busiest times of the year. For some, their minds are already on Christmas. Certainly, the stores and commercials have their minds on Christmas! For us Christians we know the importance of these next four weeks. Not only because we are preparing for Christmas dinner and all the festivities, but because we are preparing to welcome the birth of our Savior. Jesus Christ is the reason for the season, as they say. We must not forget that as we keep our hearts awake and vigilant for the coming of the Lord. I invite you to please find time in the busyness of the season to remember Jesus. I assure you the house will be clean enough and the presents will get wrapped. Take just 1% of your day, fifteen minutes, to spend with the Lord. Together we journey to the manger!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz

Pastor