



From the Pastor's Desk



Mended During Advent

These weeks before Christmas can be a time for mending our lives. The love of God we celebrate during this Advent/ Christmas season is the story of God coming to us in the ditches of our lives and lifting us out, mending us and giving us the mercy we need to give life another try. During the coming season, we will hear St. John write, "In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us..... we love God because God first loved us. " 1 John 4:10,19

As I encounter so many people through my ministry, I realize that most people have driven into a life ditch once or twice or more. We can really only grow in our ability to love our neighbor when we experience God's breakthrough love in our own lives. Advent is a good time to see if we have driven our lives into a ditch? Ditches are difficult to escape by ourselves. We need help to escape a ditch. I think of how many people are helped out of the ditch of addiction through AA and so many other 12 step experiences. There are many ditches that capture life in our day. I see the ditches of self absorption, the inability to see and understand the situation of others. Consumerism seems to be a familiar ditch for many during these not so peaceful weeks leading to Christmas.

During Advent, watch for the ditches you may be in and slow down just a bit and allow the enlightening and encouraging messages of Advent/ Christmas time to help you out. Our parish provides so many helps to getting out of the ditch; weekday Mass, regular confession times, penance services, group reflection on the Advent Scriptures, opportunities to serve others and the always possible call to private prayer. One new opportunity this Advent will be the evening of reflection for the community on Friday night December 8th at 7:00 p.m. Hear a father with two children and a spouse speak of how he finds a way to value silence. There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and quiet time to encounter God's encouragement. Take time this Advent Season to encounter God again.

Supporting Our St. Vincent de Paul Ministry

The St. Vincent de Paul donation envelopes were inadvertently left out of the recent mailing of offertory envelopes to parishioners. However, the need is particularly great this time of year. Donation envelopes can be found in the pews for the next two months. Just put your donation into the basket during the offertory collection. Your generosity would be greatly appreciated so our volunteers can help our neighbors in need.

Fr. Jack