

Bulletin letter Dec 6, 2020 2nd Advent Cycle B

From the Pastor:

Twice today we hear Isaiah's directive: "**Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.**" How are we preparing for the Lord to make inroads into our lives, into our hearts this Advent? What obstacles has our self-centeredness place in the way and how can we remove them? For what do we need forgiveness and what repentance can we make? As we prepare to receive the Lord in Eucharist or Spiritual Communion today, let us prepare to truly receive him in our hearts.

Preparing the way of the Lord is our Advent theme, and it is our invitation as our three parishes work together. To that end, I want to ask you to pray and ponder some things as we move forward. I am optimistic that we will forge a new path in the coming months. The charge offered by Isaiah is to prepare that way, to straighten that path, which right now might seem enshrouded in fog! Let us go forward as one in Christ.

Probably the most important thing I would like to ask you to think about is this: How can we most efficiently work as three separate parishes with only one priest? Right now we have the assistance of Fr. Joe O'Brien and Fr. Jack Varno. Each weekend we only have one of them as they alternate between other parishes. At this point, it appears that we will have their assistance until Easter, but after that it is anticipated that there will only be one priest.

I feel confident that we will come up with answers, even if we make some missteps. We will all need to pray and discern at this time. May the Holy Spirit enlighten us to discover some creative ways to be church. This is what God is calling us to at this moment! What ideas come to mind for you? Once you have given this your prayerful attention, please direct your feedback to one of our trustees whose names and contact info are as follows. While I cannot promise that we can do everything that is suggested to us, I am hopeful that our collaboration will include as much of your input as we can incorporate.

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Our Lady of Grace	Polly VanNostrand John Lorenc	518-369-5945 518-399-2973	vannostrandp@gmail.com john.lorencphd@gmail.com

Last weekend I was able to preside at all masses at St. Joseph's and Our Lady of Grace. Thank you to everyone who received me with such a warm welcome. I am grateful to be your pastor and to get to know you better as time goes on.

It would be a good idea if we knew more about how one might attend mass at one of the parishes. We are all used to our own ways, so I'd like to share the methods used at each parish. At Immaculate Conception, the majority of sign-ups are online. If you wish to attend mass at Immaculate, please go to the website at icglenville.com and click on the red box in the center of the home page and follow the instructions. Those without internet access can call the parish office at (518-399-9168), but we urge you to use the online method if you are able. Masses are at 5 pm on Saturday and 9 am on Sunday. Online sign-ups are open from Monday at 9 am through Thursday at 8 pm (4 pm for calling in). St. Joseph's Church is currently using a walk in system for masses which are offered at 4 pm on Saturday and 9 am on Sunday. Our Lady of Grace mass reservations can be made by calling 518-384-0109 with requests, or email mayerd@nycap.rr.com. Masses are Saturday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 10:30 am.

Until next week, be well, do good deeds, and say your prayers.

Fr. Jerry

An additional note ... We will abstain from using incense at the 5 pm Saturday Advent Masses at Immaculate Conception.