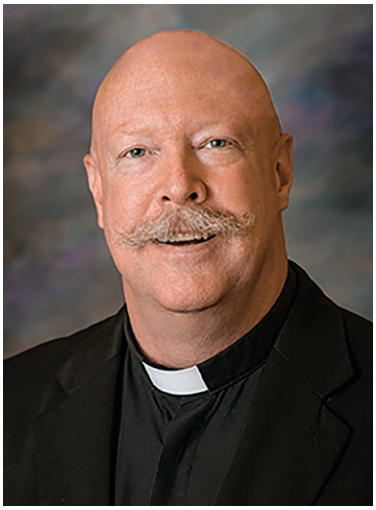
A Letter From Our Pastor

MAKING ROOM FOR CHRIST

Dear Parishioners,



The weeks leading from Thanksgiving into Christmas are filled with activity. Families gather, calendars become crowded, and preparations for the holidays seem to multiply. Many of these things are joyful and worthwhile. Yet amid everything competing for our attention, the Church gives us the season of Advent and asks us to do something that can seem increasingly difficult — slow down and make room for Christ.

Advent reminds us that our greatest preparation for Christmas does not take place in our homes, stores, or kitchens. It takes place within our hearts. The Lord desires to meet us in prayer, in the Eucharist, in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and in the people He places before us each day.

Making room for Christ also means becoming more attentive to the ways He calls us to serve. Throughout our parishes in the Diocese of Colorado Springs, there are people who quietly share their time and talents, care for neighbors in need, support the mission of the Church, and help others encounter the Lord. Their generosity reminds us that stewardship begins with recognizing what God has given us and then asking how those gifts can be used for His purposes.

In this issue of our newsletter, you will find a feature on our Sacristans Ministry, a profile of parishioner Jason Williams, and a closer look at Queen of Heaven Cemetery. These stories offer examples of parishioners who are making room for Christ by placing their faith into action and sharing the gifts God has entrusted to them.



As we move through Advent and prepare to celebrate Christmas, perhaps each of us can consider what may be occupying space that belongs to the Lord. Is there room for more prayer? Is there someone who needs our forgiveness or attention? Is God inviting us to become more generous with a gift we have been reluctant to share?

At Christmas, we celebrate the extraordinary truth that God entered our world in the humility of a child. He continues to enter our lives today, often quietly and in ways we might easily overlook.

May these weeks help us become more attentive to His presence. And when we gather to celebrate the birth of Christ, may we welcome Him with hearts made ready through prayer, generosity, and faithful stewardship.

In Divino Servitio ad Deum per Mariam,

Fr. John D. Stearns

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Pastor