

## From the Desk of Fr. Leo

In a small English parish church, behind the pulpit, is a sign which reads, "We would see Jesus." This reminded me of my love affair with the film BEN HUR. There was hardly a scene that I, as a teenager, did not know that I could not anticipate. Much of it has faded from memory, but one scene remains fresh. Esther, the former slave, stands at the opening of a leper colony preparing to take Miriam and her daughter out to freedom. Having suffered under Roman tyranny they are now lepers. As Esther helps them to leave, they stop, paralyzed in fear. Esther sees their fear and says, "Do not be afraid. The world is more than we know. I have seen a man whose name is Jesus."

I will never forget the tenderness in her voice. She knew and understood their fear. She, however, had been moved beyond fear into an incredible calm and a sense of certitude and peace.

Fear is a fact of life. Is anyone completely unafraid? The angel tells Mary not to fear, and Joseph also is told not to be afraid. Fear is no respecter of persons. Many psychiatrists tells us that the most common and subtle of all human disease is fear. Where humanity can find no answer, we will find fear; we fear the future, danger, nuclear war, disease, poverty, and death. We are unnerved by crippling disturbances that refuse to let us know lasting peace.

Fear can grip us and twist our behavior. It is an emotional force that has an insidious power to make us do what we ought not to do and to leave undone what we ought to do.

The prophet Isaiah wrestled with the meaning of faith in the midst of threat. For Isaiah, faith meant to be at rest in times of threat. It is not to be stoic, but to know God is engaged for us. Faith is a religious posture in the midst of the holy war; not a crusade, but God fighting with us, Emmanuel, in the battle. Faith is the bet that God will turn out to be the conqueror in the conflict. In Emmanuel, God has taken on our skin. God becomes skin of our skin and flesh of our flesh. God shares with us our trials, pains, temptations, disappointments, and fears. That skin is finally pierced by nails, and the God of creation would share even the taste of death with us.

The mystery of Emmanuel is the incarnation of the invisible immortal God. God has been in love with us

from the beginning of time, and that is the real mystery of the Word that was made flesh in Jesus. God comes to us still.

Do not be afraid. Come, Emmanuel is here. God is with us. Believing that we can also say, "Do not be afraid. The world is more than we know. I have seen a man whose name is Jesus."

Fr. Leo Alban Asuncion

#### Mass Intentions for the Week

Tues.	December 20	11:00AM
Flora Orsi †		ICF #14
XX7. 1	D	11.00434
Wed.	December 21	11:00AM
Elma Nursement †		ICF #14
(health)		
Thur.	December 22	11:00AM
Tommy Wolthuis †		Roxene
Fri.	December 23	11:00AM
Jennifer Sebastian †		Jenny
		JUIIIY
Jemmer Bebastian		Jenny
	December 24 4:30	<b>)PM &amp; 10PM</b>
Sat. D	December 24 4:30	
	December 24 4:30	
Sat. D People of the Parish		)PM & 10PM
Sat. D People of the Parish	December 24 4:30 December 25	
Sat. D People of the Parish		)PM & 10PM
Sat. D People of the Parish Sun. People of the Parish		)PM & 10PM 9:00AM
Sat. D People of the Parish		)PM & 10PM

#### Sunday Collection - December 11th

St. Rose, Crockett	\$1540
<b>Religious Retirement</b>	\$383
St. Patrick Mission	\$505
<b>Religious Retirement</b>	\$55
St. Patrick Mission	\$505

Thank you again to all who support our Parish!

#### <u>Poinsettias & Christmas</u> <u>Decorations</u>

The poinsettias that decorate our Church during the Christmas season are in honor of our departed loved ones. Envelopes to add the memory of your loved one to the altar

are in the vestibule. The donation for each name is \$10. Names must be to the office by December 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### <u>Where did the Christmas Tree Come</u> <u>From?</u>

For thousands of years, the evergreen tree has been a sign of hope and life. For ancient people, it was a reminder in the winter that sunlight and good weather would come again. For Christians, it's a reminder that Jesus came to bring us the hope of eternal life.

While sixteenth century Germans are said to be the first people to bring Christmas trees into their homes, St. Boniface, an eighth century Catholic missionary to the Germans, is credited with creating the first Christmas tree. This happened one Christmas Eve when he chopped down a large oak tree that the Germans used for pagan worship. He pointed to a nearby evergreen tree, saying that it represented peace and eternal life. He told the crowd of Germans to gather around evergreen trees in their homes in a spirit of kindness and love, to commemorate the child Jesus.

In the early 1800s, German settlers brought the Christmas tree tradition to Pennsylvania. The rest of America adopted the tradition in 1846, and slowly but surely the Christmas tree gained popularity. Now, Christmas trees are seen in homes and on display all over the world. Their beauty and light remind us of the hope we have in Jesus. (dynamiccatholic.com)



# An Advent Word Search

Ρ	R	0	Ρ	Н	Е	Т	S	W	Ζ	В	Н	Ρ	Е	S	0	J
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L	Ρ	Ν	С	U	R	А	Ι	А	J	С	А	Ν	D	L	Е	S
Т	Х	0	G	V	S	Е	R	Ν	R	J	W	М	Ι	С	А	Н
G	U	Κ	Н	Е	Ι	Ν	А	Κ	U	Υ	Υ	Ρ	D	L	W	Н
Н	Х	Ρ	V	S	L	Ζ	Е	Т	Ν	R	С	Y	В	Μ	J	J
Т	Ζ	Q	Ζ	Ν	Κ	А	Т	С	Н	Е	Т	G	Е	С	G	0
Е	Т	Н	Υ	Μ	S	D	Х	Ρ	F	W	S	L	Т	0	Ν	Υ
Т	С	Н	Ι	Ν	U	V	Q	Ρ	J	0	Ι	S	Н	U	Т	Κ
S	Х	А	Х	Т	С	Е	V	Е	W	Ν	R	Q	L	Ν	Т	F
G	Υ	Ι	Е	S	U	Ν	F	Е	L	D	Н	М	Е	S	Ι	Κ
G	А	L	Μ	Ρ	J	Т	В	G	А	Е	С	D	Н	Е	А	F
R	Ν	В	Ρ	Υ	С	Е	U	R	А	R	R	U	Е	L	W	0
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VENT ANGEL NSUS CHRIST							ETH OMI		HEM	I			_ES SEL	LOR		

ADVENT CENSUS DARKNESS ISAIAH LIGHT PROPHETS

ANGEL CHRIST FAITH JESUS MARY WAITING BETHLEHEM COMING GABRIEL JOSEPH MICAH WONDERFUL CANDLES COUNSELLOR HOPE JOY PEACE WREATH

### Office Closed

The office will be closed Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>- Monday December 26<sup>th</sup>. It will be open again December 27<sup>th</sup> for anything that is needed, and then closed until January 3<sup>rd</sup>.