



BRIEF NOTES from Deacon Denny

Next weekend we'll begin the season of Advent, one of Fr. Tim's favorite seasons. Prominent in our sanctuary will be our Advent Wreath, with its candles of purple and rose, and many of you will decorate your dinner tables with smaller versions of the same wreath. But I'd like to make a "humble suggestion" for us all to consider, as we prepare for the coming of Christmas.

Consider attending Mass these weeks of Advent. The Covid plague has affected us all as individuals and families. It has also affected us as a faith community: it still causes many parishioners to stay at home. Of course, some of us are still very at-risk, and we would not want anyone to ignore the advice of their doctor! But many others have gotten used to joining us on live-stream, and of course it is more convenient that way; we can even sleep late, if we want to.

But at home, you can't greet your friends – and you can't make new ones, either. You don't have the opportunity to learn the name of that certain person you see all the time but haven't talked with yet. In Advent you don't get the opportunity to sing "O Come Emmanuel" with the choir - and everyone else. A key ingredient of worship is missing: the physical community.

For many years, as deacon I used to give the announcements at the end of Mass. And at Christmas and Easter I could thank the choir, special musicians, all those who prepared the church -- everyone who made these grand celebrations so wonderful. At the end, I always thanked all the parishioners who came, and finished with the remark: **"This Church is so much more powerful when so many of us are here together."** That was Church with a capital "C" – the community, not the building!

Enough said; I don't want you to feel guilty if you can't do it. We will pray for you, and we ask you to pray for all of us. Amen

Deacon Denny