

As I mentioned prior to my vacation, Advent is going to be quickly upon us. This Sunday, is the 33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time. Next week is the solemnity of Christ the King, the final Sunday in Ordinary Time, and then the new liturgical year begins with the First Sunday of Advent 2017.

It is exciting for me to see the days pass by. One of the greatest gifts that God has given us living in the Pacific Northwest is that we get to see the wonderful and so often amazing transformations that take place around us in nature.

We saw the new year last year ushered in by a number of cold and snowy days. This is a reminder to us that God and Mother Nature always have the upper hand. We spent time with our families enjoying the snow and I pray we got some quiet time as well.

Winter finally loosened her grip on us and spring came upon us. The chill of the air disappeared and the earth once again sprouted with new life. The dark days of winter slipped away and each day brought us a little more light. Summer came in after the clouds and rain finally gave up the fight, and our days were long and bright. Warmth filled the air all around. The fields all around were busting forth fruit and life.

The days once again begin to shorten. The fields are bustling with activity, all hands are working to bring in the harvest and all that God has given to us, so that we may survive another long dark winter. Once again, the wheel of time ticks along.

It is important for us to pause and take notice of what God is doing all around us and to enjoy this time of grace that God has given us. We should not let this time simply pass us by unnoticed. God has given us much to appreciate and to be thankful for. As we get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving day on November 23 (Mass will be at 9:30 am Thanksgiving Day), let us take some time to stop and reflect upon all that God has given to you and your family and then give Him thanks. God has given us so much to be thankful for, let us not let this day of Thanks go by without expressing our gratitude to our Lord and creator!

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!**

Fr. James