

Dear Parishioners:

As we know, Advent is upon us. In the midst of all the hustle and bustle of the season (cooking, cleaning, decorating, shopping, etc.), don't overlook the various spiritual opportunities that are being offered in December. You should have received a listing of these events in the mail but they are also listed in the bulletin.

Opportunities are simply that: opportunities! We have to choose to take advantage of these opportunities. We have opportunities for both adults and children. Make this season a holy season by taking advantage of these spiritual Advent offerings. I especially want you to circle next **Sunday, December 17** on your family calendar and come to the presentation, **SHARE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST**, beginning at 4:00pm in the Church. Also, this Tuesday will be a movie night. We will be showing *The Fourth Wiseman*, starring Martin Sheen. It is a good movie for adults and children.

In November 2013, Pope Francis published a pastoral exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)*. In the pastoral exhortation, Pope Francis wrote: "I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting Jesus encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day."

Let that be your Advent resolution: to have a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. As St. John tells us in the Gospel: For God so loved the world that He sent His only Son that anyone who believes in Him might not perish but might have eternal life. God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through Him. (John 3:16 -17).

This is the person whom Pope Francis wants us to have a personal encounter: the Christ who loved us so much that He became one of us and that same Christ died for us on the cross for our redemption.

Remember: Together, we can do something beautiful for God.

In Christ,

Fr. Brian

PS: Don't forget to hand in your chances for our 50/50 drawing which will take place after Christmas. Send them in by mail or drop them off at the rectory. As the saying goes, "You have to be in it to win it!" So, be in it and win it! Think about giving the chances as a Christmas gift to your family and friends. It will be a nice way to help the parish at the same time. Give them as Christmas gifts to your adult children! The drawing will take place after the 12:30pm Mass on Sunday, January 7.