

Dear friends in Christ,

And so it begins, as the first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of a new year in the life of the Church.

It is a new year in our life as a Parish Family. This weekend, we start sharing one bulletin for all three of our communities. It's helpful from a practical standpoint – each of the parishes was already sharing a single Mass calendar, and cross advertising some events and ministries. One bulletin will do that in a much fuller way, while also decreasing duplicated efforts among each parish staff. This past year and a half has seen us sharing priestly and diaconal ministry, as well as some other ministries and limited staffing. This new bulletin will make it easier to share our life together, and for the people of our three communities to begin seeing themselves more and more as one and take advantage of the opportunities and offerings available – for fellowship, for prayer, and for formation, no matter at which location it's offered.

It is a new year for the universal Church, as well. What will Advent look like for you this year? How are you creating more space in your life for the Lord? Amidst so many good things (and distractions) during these days, how will you keep your eyes on Jesus, who is drawing near to us? And beyond just Advent, what are some of your hopes for the year ahead in your walk with Christ? These are always great questions for us as individuals, and as parishes and a wider Catholic community, as we seek Jesus in all things and above all things.

Finally, thank you for your patience and grace as we tweak the layout, wording and content of this new bulletin. I am grateful to all of our communications and admin teams who have worked hard to bring it to fruition.

Fr. Matthew Oakland