

# Pastor's Letter

Nov. 30, 2025—1st Sunday of Advent

Dear Church Family,

"For our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed." Romans 13:11

One of the blessings of being a Christian is knowing that history is going somewhere. Many people today suffer from a lack of meaning in their lives. They think that human beings are just a product of random chance, an accidental collision of chemicals that evolved over billions of years resulting in you and me. The universe has no purpose or goal or direction. It's pretty hard to have hope for the future when you don't believe there is any point to your existence.

The Christian faith teaches that our lives do have a point. We are here for a reason: to love and serve God and enjoy life in his presence forever. Every day is an opportunity to grow in love and move closer to the fulfillment of that purpose. The story of the universe is a love story. It begins with our creation in the outpouring of God's love. It develops as God invites us to return his love and expand the circle of his love by sharing it with others. It comes to completion at the end of time when all things will be made new and love will triumph over all, even death.

But, as Shakespeare said, the course of true love never did run smooth. There is drama in this love story because this is a real love story, and we have a say in how it all turns out. Will we accept God's love? Will we embrace the purpose for which we were made? Or will we part ways with our Creator and leave behind the source of meaning for our lives?

Last Sunday we read in St. Paul's letter to the Colossians, "(Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For in him were created all things in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." (Col. 1:15-17) Everything comes from him and everything is moving back to him. Love is our origin and love is our endpoint. May love be the driving force that gives meaning to our lives and brings us home.

Blessings,

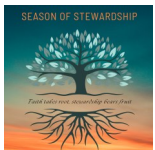
Fr. Scott

P.S. As we begin a new year of grace, we are blessed to welcome a new member of our tri-parish staff. Mitchell Brecht has joined us as our new Pastoral Associate for Formation. We look forward to getting to know him and we are grateful for the gifts and talents he brings to our church family.

## Dec 8—Immaculate Conception Mass

8:00 am Mass @ St. Edward

6:30 pm Mass @ St. Brigid



Don't Forget to Turn in Your Commitment Card! We're still in the midst of our annual Stewardship Renewal. If you haven't turned in your Commitment Card, it is NOT too late. Returning your card is an important part of being an active member of our parishes. Please take this opportunity to discern how God is calling you to grow closer to Him this year.



*Catholic Heart Work Camp*

### **Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser**

ORDERS CAN BE PLACED BY ANY CHWC CAMPER  
OR JEANNE CRAMSEY @ 217-653-3962.

ORDER SHEETS WILL ALSO BE AT EACH CHURCH.

All orders must be placed by

Friday, Dec. 12

Cost is \$20 per dozen

Rolls can be picked up

Dec. 20, after the 4:30 pm mass at St. Brigid

Dec. 21, after 9 am mass at St. Joseph

Or they will be delivered between Dec. 22-24