



Getting Closer

We are just two weeks away from Christmas Day. Most of us have at least started our gift shopping, writing cards, baking and attended Christmas parties. It has been a very busy time for most of us. The short season of Advent has also been in full swing and now we are in the second half of this important time of the year. Now would be a good time to do some evaluation and ask: How has my Advent been coming along? Have I been able to make some time for prayer and reflection? Have I been able to overcome the temptation to make this time of year like so much of what our society says Christmas is all about: a secular celebration? Have we truly made this season a religious time for ourselves?

If we answered “no” to any of the above questions, there is still time to change. One way to make sure we are prepared to meet the Lord is to celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation. Our parish Advent Reconciliation service is Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00 P.M. There will be a short prayer service followed by individual confessions. Several priests will be available. Let us renew ourselves in the Lord. Let us put away deeds of darkness and come into the Light of Christ! May these remaining days of Advent be a time of thought, peace and preparation.

Father David

Christmas Wafers

Christmas wafers, or oplatki, are available in the narthex this weekend as well as next weekend. They are available during the week in the Ministry Center. A \$2 offering would be most appreciated. The custom of breaking a piece of wafer and sharing it with others at the Christmas dinner originated in Eastern Europe and has spread to many places in the world. You may wish to designate a family member to begin with a prayer before distributing the wafers. One example of a prayer is as follows: “Dear Father, we ask your blessing upon these wafers which will be shared. We thank you for the love which you have bestowed upon us, and we are grateful today for the love that exists in our family. May we always nurture and appreciate all that we have. May we rejoice always in knowing that your Son Jesus has come among us. May we be faithful followers of your Son Jesus, in whose name we make this prayer. Amen.

Father David

Parking on Christmas Eve at Willowbrook Nature Center

Once again, the Willowbrook Nature Center across the street from our church, has graciously offered their parking lot for our parishioners’ cars on Christmas Eve during the 4:00 P.M. Masses (Mass at 4:00 P.M. will be celebrated in both the church and in the Parish Hall.) There are approximately 90 spaces in their lot. You will need to remove your car by 6:00 P.M. at the latest as the gate will then be closed and locked. Therefore, their lot may only be used for the 4:00 P.M. Masses on Christmas Eve.

Father David