



## St. Margaret Parish



Dear Friends,

*At one time it began after Thanksgiving, now it begins in September. We are informed, reminded, even haunted by the ever-decreasing number of shopping days until Christmas. We probably have our own countdowns: gifts to buy and wrap, send; cards to address and mail; events to attend. We are not allowed to forget!*

*Quite possibly we are counting down for a full three months. That is one quarter of a year! For all that time, our focus is on Christmas and the ways in which Christmas touches our lives.*

*However, as we anticipate this yearly event, we may be overlooking one of the most important lessons of all. For when the Son of Man stretched out his foot and stepped upon the earth as one of us, he exalted our own humanity; when Christ lived within the confines of time, he sanctified our time.*

*So each day on earth is a gift, a most wonderful gift, from God. Life—our very existence—is a marvelous blessing from our Creator. How unfortunate that we should get so preoccupied in looking ahead that we forget the wonder of this moment, this instant, NOW!*

*The celebration of the NOW requires practice and concentration. It takes the ability to “be still and that I am God” (Ps 46:10). It requires the ability to be aware of our own existence. How easy is it to become so absorbed in our preparations for the celebration of the historical Christ’s birth that we completely ignore Christ present here and now? Christ is here. Christ is within. Let us celebrate! NOW!*

*During this Advent, I ask you to change the things around you to see each day as a special gift from God. My Advent wish for you is that peace fills your hearts during this season, the peace only Jesus can give. Enjoy the gift of Advent and Christmas for you and your family.*

