

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Today we begin the beautiful season of Advent — a season of preparation. For what are we preparing? The celebration of the birth of our Saviour, and the anticipation of His second coming. During the Christmas season, we long for peace. We want peace in our hearts, peace in our families, peace in our world. As much as we desire peace, we sometimes find it out of reach during this hectic and busy time of year. The promise of Christmas remains a promise of peace for all who want it. It is a reminder for us to meet the Prince of peace and enthrone him as king of our hearts. He is our peace, and when we have peace with Jesus, we can bring his peace to others. During this Advent Season, we will be walking together with the theme of "Missing Peace." Through this series, we will look at the unique peace only Jesus can give and how to enjoy his peace this Christmas season and throughout the New Year.



### WEEK ONE - The Path to Peace

In this message, Fr. John and I will introduce our desire for peace, especially during the Christmas season. God offers us the gift of peace at Christmas and throughout the year. Despite this offer, we are often missing peace in our lives. We will describe how the gift of God's peace is different from the world's peace. It is a peace that surpasses all understanding, transcends our circumstances, is available to everyone and is meant to be our normal state. We will look at the passage from Isaiah as God's desire for us to have peace with him, in our hearts and with others.

1. Know? Advent reminds us of our deep desire for peace, a desire that God shares. True peace does not come from circumstances or fleeting moments but from God's presence. Jesus offers a peace that is lasting and not dependent on the world around us.
2. Feel? This season invites us to feel renewed hope. In a world marked by conflict, division, and anxiety, we can trust that peace is not only possible but promised in Christ. We are encouraged that God's desire for peace meets our own longing, giving us confidence that it can be found in Him.
3. Next steps? Advent is a time to take small but intentional steps toward peace. We are invited to put down the "weapons" we carry, such as gossip, anger, or complaint, and instead take up practices that cultivate peace. Setting aside a daily quiet time in prayer and Scripture can open our hearts to God's presence. Joining in the parish's Advent and Christmas liturgies, especially Christmas Eve Mass helps us experience Christ, the Prince of Peace, together as a community.