

July 10, 2022

I really enjoyed celebrating the Masses with all of you this past weekend. I was very happy to meet a lot of you at the Masses and to reconnect with some of you with whom I have had connections in the past. This upcoming week, July 11-15, I will be out of town attending the orientation of a liturgy leadership program at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. This will be a two year program that will include a few visits to the Notre Dame campus and some work in the virtual world. The theme of this program will be forming a Eucharistic culture in our Church by collaborating together as a community of faith. This ties into the Eucharistic renewal which our US Bishops are undertaking, which will culminate in a national Eucharistic Congress in 2024. As always, what we believe about the Eucharist as being the real presence of Christ should affect our words and our actions, which is connected to our Gospel message of the Good Samaritan this Sunday, about who we see as our neighbor. Father Lincoln – Pastor

July 17, 2022

I am writing this bulletin message from the campus of the University of Notre Dame, where I have been all week at the orientation for a liturgical leadership program that will last two years. There are 21 of us from around the country in this program, including Catholic school teachers, directors of liturgy, directors of religious education, priests, musicians, missionaries, and even a diocesan director of development. The theme of this program is promoting a Eucharistic culture in our parishes, our Dioceses, and our Catholic schools. In this program, we each will be tasked to develop a project that we will promote for the long term. At this point, I am hoping to use different Catholic devotions, prayers, and traditions to promote a Eucharistic culture here at Holy Savior, and then hopefully other places throughout our Diocese. I am excited about the possibilities for us a parish. I feel very blessed to be a part of this program and for the opportunity to develop such a project with my studies at Notre Dame these next two years. I missed being with all of you for daily Mass this week, but am glad to be with all of you this weekend and for the daily Masses in the upcoming week.

As we have two men from Holy Savior in the first year of the diaconate formation program, Chris Halliwell and Hunter Yentzen, we as a Diocese celebrate six men this weekend who are being ordained to the Diaconate. They are from the parishes of St. Michael in Vicksburg, St. Michael in Forest, St. Jude in Pearl, the Cathedral of St. Peter in Jackson, and St. Paul in Flowood. We pray for these men and their families as they are ordained for the ministry in our Diocese. We also pray for Hunter and Chris who are at the beginning of their diaconate formation. Father Lincoln – Pastor

July 24, 2022

In our Gospel reading this weekend, Jesus teaches his disciples how to pray, but he also states that if we ask, we shall receive, and if we knock, the door will be opened for us. Our faith is always to go beyond our prayers in putting that faith into action.

It is hard to believe that our summer is coming to a close with our students and youth headed to school very soon. We will commence our school year in August with a blessing of the backpacks in August, of which more information will be forthcoming. We look forward to a new year of religious education for our children, youth, and adults.

Speaking of putting faith into action, we are looking for volunteers who would like to join our prison ministry at Central Mississippi Correctional Facility. We are looking for women who would like to help with the women's ministry and men for the men's prison ministry. We currently have a small group of volunteers who have been going out there for a year, but as that group is aging and having more time constraints, we are in need for more volunteers. Currently, we have been going out during the week on an afternoon for the men and women in the general prison population and ministering to the prisoners who are trustee there on Saturday mornings. There will be an orientation by the state prison system prior to starting as a volunteer. Please contact Father Lincoln if you are interested. Have a blessed week everyone. Father Lincoln.

July 31, 2022

Back in the spring of 2017, when I found out I was going to move to St Jude parish in Pearl, the Bishop asked me if I wanted to take some additional time off, since I had been a priest for nine years at that point and with all that was going on in my life as a priest, I had not had a lot of vacation time and down time. I told him I wanted to reflect upon that, to use that time in a good way. I decided to go on a 30-day retreat on the spiritual exercises of St Ignatius of Loyola on the site of his family's castle in the Basque Country in northern Spain, which I ended up doing in July 2019. What an amazing, intense experience those spiritual exercises turned out to be! Based upon his own time of discernment in the early 16th century when he left behind his life as a medieval knight and soldier to become a priest, the spiritual exercises of St Ignatius are a time of intense prayer and silence that include a daily meeting with a spiritual director. Except for that daily meeting, there was no talking at all, just prayer, Mass, and silence. I remember telling a friend about that experience, saying that it was like going deep inside myself and baring my soul each day. I give thanks that Bishop Kopacz gave me the opportunity to have that experience.

This Sunday, July 31, as we celebrate the feast day of St Ignatius of Loyola, we will pray two of his well-know prayers at Mass. The Suscipe is a traditional form of Catholic prayer which comes from the Latin word "receive". Those of you who have been connected with Catholic schools founded by the Sisters of Mercy will be familiar with the suscipe prayer written by that order's founders Sister Catherine McAuley. We will pray the suscipe of St Ignatius. Also, even though it appears that St Ignatius did not write the Anima Christi prayer, it is a prayer included in the beginning of his spiritual exercises and it is very closely associated with him. Blessings to all of you. I am so glad to be with all of you as your pastor here at Holy Savior Clinton and Immaculate Conception Raymond. Father Lincoln.

August 7, 2022

Our Gospel today tells us the need for us to be prepared on our journey of faith. We are called to be ready for when Jesus comes again, since we do not know the hour or the day.

Even with something as simple as writing homilies, for which I am usually writing six to eight homilies a week, I need to stay prepared and organized, or I will get behind and it will be hard to catch up. It is Monday morning as I write this and thankfully, I have written all my homilies for the week.

Speaking of getting ready and being prepared, I am getting ready for a trip to California, which will take me away from Mississippi from August 9 to August 24. This time of the year, I usually go out of the Diocese for several weekends to do mission appeals, where I celebrate Masses at different parishes throughout the country and to tell our missionary story of the Diocese of Jackson. These parishes in turn take up a second collection for our Diocese that helps our mission parishes and schools. For the next two weekends, I will be celebrating Masses at San Gabriel Mission, one of the original California missions founded by Father Junipero Serra in 1771, and Our Lady of Peace, located in the San Fernando Valley area of Los Angeles. Reflecting the reality of our Catholic faith here in the United States, both of those parishes have seven Masses each weekend, with more Masses offered in languages other than English, including Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Spanish. I will be able to handle the Spanish and the English without a problem, but they are going to translate my homilies into Tagalog and Vietnamese for the Masses in those languages.

I will miss being with all of you for the weeks I am going to be away, but I am looking forward to visiting some family and friends in California and looking forward to spending some time hiking. Blessings to all of you. Father Lincoln.

August 14, 2022

For the last several weeks at Sunday Mass, we have been hearing from the 12th chapter of Luke's Gospel. In that chapter, Jesus is attracting huge crowds who are very interested in what he has to say. Some of the people in the crowds are his disciples. They take his teachings to heart and want to learn from him. However, there are others such as the scribes, temple officials, and Pharisees who are also interested in what he says, but they want to use his teachings to criticize him and make life difficult for him.

Sometimes we need to directly confront the reality around us in order to eventually solve any problems or tensions that exist. That is what Jesus is talking about when he says that he has come to create division, even to the point of creating situations where households are divided. Perhaps we can identify with this with what we have gone through during the pandemic, of a harsh social reality and division that we have had to face, rather than ignore.

I remember in the spring of 1992, I was living in the Los Angeles area working for an accounting firm. I had a meeting that morning in downtown Los Angeles for an audit I had just completed. As I was driving back home to Orange County that afternoon, I heard on the radio that the trial verdict for the Rodney King case had been delivered. Then came the reports of spreading crime, violence, and rioting. For the next several days, much of the Los Angeles area was being torn apart by riots, with the heart of the activity being the area

where I had been working the last several weeks in downtown Los Angeles. Hard work, reconciliation, healing, and trust are needed to address a lot of these deep problems and divisions we face in society, even thirty years after these riots.

Blessings to all of you. This weekend I will be celebrating Masses at Mission San Gabriel, the original mission in the Los Angeles area that was founded by St Junipero Serra in 1771. I will keep all of you in my prayers as I celebrate the Masses there. Father Lincoln.

August 21, 2022

What do we have to do to truly be a disciple of Jesus? Who will be chosen to enter into God's eternal kingdom? In essence, that is what Jesus is asked when someone questions him as he's teaching in the towns and villages on his way to Jerusalem: "Jesus, will only a few people be saved? Will I be among them?" In Jesus's response to this question posed to him by the crowds, perhaps he is telling us that it is entirely another question that we need to be asking instead. Perhaps the question we should be asking pertains to how we can grow in our relationship with Jesus and grow on our journey of faith,

I had a good mission appeal at Mission San Gabriel just east of the city of Los Angeles last weekend. We had seven Masses on Saturday and Sunday last weekend, so I was quite busy, with Masses in Vietnamese, Spanish, and English. I have seven Masses coming up this weekend at Our Lady of Peace located in the San Fernando area of Los Angeles. I enjoy representing our Diocese at these parishes and to tell our stories.

I have been hiking the California mission trail during my time here in Southern California. Today, as I write this, I was down in the Oceanside area hiking along the coast, which was just beautiful. Oceanside is home to Mission San Luis Rey. I am hoping to visit Mission San Juan Capistrano in Orange County this week as well. Most of you know how much I love hiking and love going on pilgrimage, so I am very much enjoying this experience.

I look forward to coming back to Clinton. Blessings to all of you. I will see you next weekend.

Father Lincoln.

August 28, 2022

As I write this bulletin reflection, I am wrapping up my trip to California. I had wonderful experiences at the mission appeals at two parishes in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles: Our Lady of Peace in North Hills in the San Fernando Valley and Mission San Gabriel, which is the original mission in the Los Angeles area established in 1771 founded by St Junipero Serra. Each of these parishes had seven Masses during the weekend. Each of those parishes had Masses celebrated in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

As I hiked the California mission trail in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties during my visit to California, I visited several missions along the way, being immersed into the very diverse multi-cultural reality that makes up Southern California. Part of the mission appeal is about raising money for our Diocese to fund grants to our parishes and schools, but also a big part of the mission appeal is about relationship, sharing stories about our Diocese, and conversing about missionary spirit that is such an important part of our identity as Disciples of Christ. Here at Holy Savior and Immaculate Conception, we look forward to the start of our religious education program.

In the Gospel today, we hear of Jesus' interaction with the people of Ancient Israel, which always happens in the midst of their lived reality. May we never forget how Jesus meets us in the midst of our own reality? I look forward to seeing all of you at Masses this weekend after having been away these past couple of weeks. Blessings – Father Lincoln.

September 4, 2022

As most of you know, I am a part of a program with the Mathis Liturgical Leadership Program at the University of Notre Dame, a two-year program that just started its first cohort this summer. I went to the Notre Dame campus in July for the orientation and our on-line classes start in couple of weeks. As we are celebrating the centrality of the Eucharist in a special way throughout our Diocese and throughout the universal Church these next couple of years, including a Eucharistic congress, the theme of this leadership program of developing a stronger eucharistic culture in our parishes and our Catholic institutions is hopefully going to influence me a great deal as pastor of Holy Savior and Immaculate Conception and as Vicar General of the Diocese. In our Gospel today, Jesus talks to us about making a total commitment to our faith, about carrying our crosses as we follow Jesus as his disciples. For us Catholics, the Eucharist, the Mass, and our prayer life are called to have a central role in this total commitment we give to Jesus and to our faith. We cannot over-emphasize the importance of the Eucharist in our life of faith as Catholics.

I want to remind all of you that this Wednesday, September 7, we are having Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Holy Savior at 6:00 pm in the church, which will conclude with Benediction just before 7:00 pm. I will be available for confessions during this time as well. We are offering adoration one evening a month right now. We invite you to spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament with our faith community during this time. Also, we will have Labor Day Mass this Monday at 8:30 am when we will pray a special prayer for workers during that Mass. Blessings to all of you this Labor Day weekend. Father Lincoln.

September 11, 2022

Last Sunday, Jesus reminded us in the Gospel that we are to take up our crosses and follow him. Jesus demands a total commitment from us on the road of discipleship, which will certainly include sacrifices and challenges. Today, we hear Jesus tell us the parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin, emphasizing the way that Jesus came to save the sinner and the lost, to rejoice when the lost soul repents and comes back to the fold. Paul describes

how he once embraced blasphemy, persecution, and arrogance on his journey of faith, but that through God's grace and mercy, he experienced a profound conversion in his life that brought him to Christ. We can be lost in many different ways on our journey, but God always offers us his love, grace, mercy, and forgiveness.

As we pass Labor Day, which is traditionally seen as the end of summer, we start our new school year of religious education. Having taught religious education myself as a layperson before I became a priest, and having come through the RCIA program as an adult to the Catholic faith, I have experienced the importance of religious education first-hand in my own life of faith. All of us are called to be lifelong learners in the faith. We have changed the Mass time at Immaculate Conception in Raymond to 8:00 am in order to better accommodate our program of religious education. Next weekend we will celebrate Catechetical Sunday as we recognize the importance of formation on our journey of faith and recognize our catechists and teachers of religious education. Blessings to all of you – Father Lincoln.

September 18, 2022

Most of you know that I love the traditions of the Church. I love celebrating the community of saints in different ways. The liturgies we celebrate this week say so much about our faith. Tuesday was the feast day of St John Chrysostom, the Archbishop of Constantinople in present-day Turkey in the 4th Century, an important center of Christianity in the Early Church. Wednesday was the feast of the exaltation of the Holy Cross, commemorating the recovery of the actual physical cross of Jesus by St Helena, the mother of the Roman emperor Constantine, in the 4th Century. On Thursday, we commemorated Our Lady of Sorrows, a major feast day of the Blessed Mother. Finally, on Friday, we commemorated St Cyprian, the Bishop of Carthage in North Africa in the 3rd century, and St Cornelius, who was pope during that same era. Both Cornelius and Cyprian died martyrs of the faith.

Finally, this weekend, we start our classes of religious education and we celebrate Catechetical Sunday in our Church, giving a blessing to our catechists and teachers of religious education. In recent years, we see many people trying to tear down statues and erase history, judging the historical figures of the past through our current lens. Yet, like anything in life, reality is often more complicated than what we want to see and what we understand. We have to recognize both the good and the bad of our history in order for us to make sense of our current reality. The saints were human in their strengths and weaknesses, in their joys and struggles, in the way they followed God in their lives and in the way they sometimes missed the mark. We can learn from the saints and from our history. We can unite our prayers with the prayers of the saints, asking the saints to help us, lead us, and guide us. I give thanks for our wonderful staff here at Holy Savior and for all our catechists, religious education teachers, and volunteers. So many people work very hard for our parish. Blessings to all of you. Have a blessed week. Father Lincoln.

September 25, 2022

This past Thursday and Friday, I was away at St Meinrad Benedictine Arch Abbey and seminary in southern Indiana, as I was a presenter at a workshop for new pastors from Dioceses throughout the country. Some of our own new pastors from the Diocese of Jackson will be attending the St Meinrad workshops this year. I have been giving the presentation on finance and accounting at these workshops at St Meinrad for many years now. Also, this weekend, I am out of town at a Mission appeal at St Ignatius Catholic Church in Annandale, Minnesota, about an hour from Minneapolis-St Paul. I always enjoy representing our Diocese at these Mission appeals, telling our story as a Mission Diocese in the heart of the Bible belt of the South.

As we hear the story of Lazarus and the rich man in our Gospel today, I think of the words of Pope John Paul II that he gave during a visit to the United States as pope for the first time. These words were spoken at Yankee stadium in New York in 1979: "The parable of the rich man and Lazarus must always be present in our memory; it must form our conscience. Christ demands openness to our brothers and sisters in need: openness from the rich, the affluent, the economically advanced; openness to the poor, the underdeveloped and the disadvantaged. Christ demands an openness that is more than benign attention, more than token actions or halfhearted efforts that leave the poor as destitute as before ...We cannot stand idly by, enjoying our own riches and (our own) freedom, if, in any place, the Lazarus of the 20th century stands at our doors." Blessings to all of you this weekend. I am thankful for Father McGing for celebrating the Masses here at Holy Savior and Immaculate Conception this weekend. Father Lincoln.

October 2, 2022

This past weekend, I was at the parish of St Ignatius in the town on Annandale, Minnesota, located about 60 miles northwest of the Minneapolis-St Paul metro area. I celebrated the weekend Masses there, telling them stories of our Diocese and being Catholic in the Bible Belt of the Deep South. This summer, I have had mission appeals in southern California, Minnesota, and next weekend in New Hampshire, celebrating Mass at Catholic parishes in different parts of the country and in very different realities. I enjoy interacting with the Catholic faithful in this way.

As we hear Jesus asked about faith in the Gospel this weekend, as Jesus tells us that faith as small as a mustard seed can do big things, we are asked to reflect upon our own faith. I see the faith of the people manifested in different ways as I visit these parishes for our mission appeal. The sister parish of St Ignatius, St Timothy parish in Maple Grove, Minnesota, was celebrating the 100th anniversary of its church building. The Archbishop of Minneapolis-St Paul came to celebrate Mass with them that Sunday morning. The parish held a dinner and a parish festival that weekend, celebrating their history and their faith. We here at Holy Savior and Raymond have our history and our own story of faith that we recognize and celebrate as well. I am thankful for Father McGing and Father Bucciantini celebrating the weekend Masses while I have been away these past two weekends. I miss being with all of you and will be thankful when my travels this fall are over. Blessings to all of you. I look forward to being with all of you when Bishop Kopacz visits us at Holy Savior and Immaculate Conception to commemorate my installation as pastor next weekend. Father Lincoln.

October 9, 2022

This Sunday, we welcome Bishop Kopacz to our Mass celebrations at Holy Savior and Immaculate Conception as he installs me as the pastor. I am very grateful for this opportunity to serve the people of God and the Church in the Diocese of Jackson at these two wonderful parishes. I think about all that we have going on in our Church's liturgical calendar right now. Last week, we had the blessing of the animals at Holy Savior in honor of the feast day of St Francis of Assisi. I got to bring my cat to the parish for the first time so that she could get a blessing. This month of October, we commemorate Mission Month in the Catholic Church, which was appropriate with me finishing up my last mission appeal that first weekend in October. This month of October is also Respect Life Month in the Catholic faith. This past Friday, October 7th, we commemorated the first Friday dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, one of my favorite devotions in the Catholic faith. It is wonderful this month to be able to welcome Bishop Kopacz to our parishes and to have him celebrating Mass with us, displaying our unity as a Diocese with him as our Bishop.

I will be going out to town from October 10 – 19 on a pilgrimage to Italy with a pilgrimage group. I am looking forward to that trip, but will be glad when my travels are over and will be able to spend more time with all of you. Blessings to all of you. Father Lincoln.

October 16, 2022

I am writing you this reflection from our pilgrimage in Italy on Thursday morning, October 13. This is the third day we will spend in the city of Rome. We have already visited three of the major basilicas in the city: St Peter, St John Lateran, and St Mary Major. The first day in Rome, we celebrated Mass at the Church of the Sacred Heart of Jesus located in the Prati neighborhood in Rome. That church is also dedicated to the souls in purgatory. As we celebrated Mass at St Mary Major yesterday, I thought about how I celebrated Mass in that basilica back in 2010 with Cardinal Law when he was rector of that basilica when I visited Rome with the St Richard youth choir. As most of you know, Cardinal had started out as a priest in our Diocese in Mississippi prior to becoming the Archbishop of Boston. Coming here to Rome on pilgrimage helps connect me, as a priest, to the universal Church, seeing people from all over the world come to Rome on a journey of faith. Tomorrow, we will journey to Assisi to visit the sites connected to St Francis of Assisi.

Our Gospel today calls us to prayer and persistence, as we hear of the widow who never gives up against the unjust judge. No matter who we are, we can sometimes struggle with persistence on our journey. But faith is not really faith if it is not tested. Faith is not having faith only in the good times and the easy times, but also in times of struggle and challenge. In our prayers, when we pray for others and focus on the needs of others, we can get out of our own selfishness and self-centeredness, which can also help us in our persistence, knowing that it is not always just about us.

Blessings to all of you. I look forward to getting back to the Jackson area and being with all of you. Father Lincoln.

October 23, 2022

While I was on pilgrimage in Italy, I took with me a scallop shell with the cross of St James painted on it, a symbol of the pilgrimage of St James that I have made several times in Spain. I also took with me a simple cross made from wood from the rain forests of Ecuador made by the students at the carpentry and mechanics school where I served as a lay missionary from 1996 to 1999. I think of all the missionaries I worked with in Ecuador. Just in our humble mission site, we had priests, sisters, brothers, and lay missionaries from the United States, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, Uganda, Italy, and Spain. All of us served there united in our faith, bringing the Gospel message to the people there in different ways. We had more than 100 villages that we served from that mission site, traveling hours by canoe to reach them. I used to travel 4 to 5 hours by canoe every Friday afternoon to work in one of those villages, San Francisco de Onzole.

It was amazing visiting Assisi this week, seeing the place where St Francis was born, seeing the basilica named after him, seeing the cave where he lived, seeing the place where he received the stigmata, and then reflecting upon the village named after him in that remote rain forest in Ecuador where I served as a missionary for three years. However, as we celebrate World Mission Sunday, we must realize that all of us are called to have a missionary spirit wherever we are in the world. This missionary spirit is not just for missionaries who serve in a foreign land. St Therese of Lisieux, a Carmelite nun in France, lived her life as a nun in a monastery, but due to her love of the missions and her missionary spirit, she is one of the patron saints of the missions. As we celebrate World Mission Sunday, may we never forget this missionary calling we all have. It is good to be back with all of you for Mass this weekend. Have a blessed week everyone. Father Lincoln.

October 30, 2022

It is hard to believe we are coming up to the end of October as next week we celebrate All Saints Day and All Souls Day. We will have special Masses at Holy Savior on Tuesday and Wednesday to commemorate those two important celebrations in our liturgical year. On Wednesday, we will also have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, at which time we will offer the sacrament of reconciliation. We invite you to join on those days as a part of your journey of faith.

I love the story of Zacchaeus that we hear in the Gospel today. Zacchaeus' search for something in his life and his curiosity about Jesus and his ministry led him to climb a tree to seek him out. May the Lord propel our curiosity and our search for meaning to want to learn more about him, to want to engage more on our journey of faith.

I have now been with all of you for four months at Holy Savior. I feel very blessed to be here with all of you. I had a lot of travel for the Diocese scheduled in these first months I was here. Fortunately, that travel time is over, and I look forward to spending more time with all of you and getting to know you. I am thankful for all the parishioners who volunteer in our

parish in different ministries and in getting things done, for all of your generosity that allows our parish to operate. I am thankful for our wonderful staff. Have a blessed week everyone
– Father Lincoln

November 6, 2022

The month of November is traditionally a time in which the Catholic community remembers those who have passed from their lives here on earth. It is related to the fact that the end of November is the end of the liturgical year, with a new liturgical year starting the First Sunday of Advent, which is November 27th this year. The Church uses the end of the year as a time to reflect upon the end of our lives here on earth, the end times to come, and the hope of new life that awaits us in God's eternal kingdom. We give thanks for those who have gone before us; we look with prayer and hope to their new life in heaven and our desire to join them there one day.

We will continue to pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed throughout the month of November, especially our loved ones and the members of our faith community who have gone on to eternal life. We also pray in a special way for the soul in purgatory in the process of purification. We always pray for our children and our youth, aware of the opportunities and the challenges they face in the modern world, of the many messages they receive from the secular world that are in conflict with the values of our faith. Each month, Pope Francis has a special prayer intention for which he asks us to pray. In November, the Pope asks us to pray for children who are suffering in the world today, especially for those children who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may all children be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

This week, on Thursday and Friday, I will be traveling to St Meinrad seminary in southern Indiana to be a presenter at a workshop for new pastors. I always enjoy helping the new pastors who come from different Diocese. I look forward to being back with all of you next weekend for the Masses. Have a blessed week everyone.

Father Lincoln.

November 13, 2022

We are getting to the end of our Church's liturgical year, with the solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe being celebrated next weekend. After that, we celebrate Thanksgiving and the season of Advent as we get ready for the arrival of Jesus at Christmas. As we approach the end of the liturgical year, Jesus speaks in the Gospel about the end times. I think of the "Y2K" hysteria that happened with the turn of the millennium in the year 2000 when it was predicated that all the computers would crash and that there would be a huge crisis in the world. I knew of people who were stockpiling food and water at the time. As we know, those predictions never came true. We have no control over when

the end times will come. We don't know the day or the hour. Instead, we should focus on a life always being centered on the values of the faith, of always being prepared.

Last Monday, I had the opportunity to celebrate Mass for the inmates at the federal prison in Yazoo City. The Norbertine priests who resided in Raymond were very devoted to that ministry for many years. I participated in that ministry back when I was pastor in Yazoo City from 2010 to 2013. There had not been a Catholic Mass celebrated there since March 2019 with the departure of the Norbertines from our Diocese. It seemed like I was thanked more than 100 times while I was at the federal prison for Mass this past Monday. Even the warden came up to me and thanked me. With the pandemic, I think we don't take the Mass for granted anymore. But for the prisoners, it means so much for a priest to be able to visit them and to celebrate Mass with them. I see visiting the prisoner as an important work of mercy and an important part of my priesthood. I look forward to being with all of you at the Masses this weekend. Blessings.

Father Lincoln.

November 20, 2022

As the time changed a couple of weeks ago, it gets dark much earlier in the day. The weather is getting colder, as we had the first frost on our cars this past weekend. We reach the end of our Church's liturgical year this weekend as we celebrate Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Next weekend, we start the season of Advent and a new liturgical year as we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Most of us have very busy lives during most of the year. The holiday season only gets busier. Yet, as we celebrate Christ the King this weekend, we call to mind how we must live out the values of our faith every day of our lives and to prepare a place in our hearts and our lives as we commemorate the season of Advent.

We have enjoyed using our new parish hall. We have had a baptism reception and wedding reception there already. The youth and their families had a potluck dinner there this past Sunday to share a meal together and to give thanks together as we get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving. We also welcomed the newcomers to our parish with a luncheon there this past weekend. We are very thankful for all the contributions and sacrifices our parishioners have made in order to make our parish hall a reality.

A couple of things I also want to mention: this upcoming week with our celebration of Thanksgiving, we will have Mass on Thanksgiving day at 9:00 am and Mass on Friday at 8:30 am. Also, we are excited to announce that in addition to having a 5:00 pm Mass on Christmas Eve, which falls on a Saturday this year, we will also have a Midnight Mass as well. I love the traditional Christmas Eve Midnight Mass and am so excited that we are going to celebrate Christmas in that special way here at Holy Savior this year. Blessings to all of you. Have a blessed week. Father Lincoln.

November 27, 2022

We will light the candles on the Advent wreath during our weekend masse to mark the Sunday's of Advent. The four candles on the wreath have traditionally represented the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. We mark the days and the weeks until the coming of the Lord as we light the candles on the Advent Wreath.

We are called to work together to help restore hope in the world. There are many who feel hopeless who are in need of our prayers. During Advent, may the hope of Christ penetrate our hearts and the hearts of those who have lost hope.

We see a world where there is not a lot of peace. Many in our in our society prefer to attack and tear down rather than reconcile and build up. It is hard work for us to forgive someone who has wronged us. Sometimes, we are in a broken relationship and we don't even remember the source of that brokenness. Sometimes our hearts are so troubled that we don't think that peace is possible. We pray for peace in our world during this Advent season, for an end to violence and division in our communities.

We are called to rejoice this Advent season. The joy of our faith is not like the happiness we experience in a particular moment nor is it to be deterred by the challenging circumstances of life. The joy of our faith comes from God alone as a precious gift to us.

"For God loved the world in this way: He gave His One and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). God does not just represent love: God is love. The three persons of the Trinity and their relationship with each other model the love that we have for one another. To know how to love one another, we look at the love that sent Jesus to earth to live a life of love and to pay the price for all of our sins. I wish you hope, peace, joy, and love this Advent season. Blessings to all of you this week.

Fr. Lincoln.

December 4, 2022

Below is an Advent prayer by Father Henri Nouwen, which so beautifully captures the spirit of this holy season of Advent. We hear in our Gospel this Sunday the last of the prophets of Ancient Israel, John the Baptist. John did not seek fame and fortune for himself, but he came out of the wilderness with a message that called the people to repentance and that prepared a way for Jesus' message and ministry. In the modern world today, John's message is to reach our busy lives to help us prepare a path for Jesus in the midst of our reality. May this message touch our hearts this morning in this time of preparation and waiting. May we use this time of Advent as we are still dealing with such a challenging reality in our world today, where there is so much anger, division, violence, and discord everywhere we turn. May we use this Advent season to renew ourselves on our journey of faith and to bring the conversion and transformation that we need right now in our lives.

Advent prayer by Father Henri Nouwen: Lord Jesus, Master of both the light and the darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas. We who have so much to do seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day. We who are anxious over many things

look forward to your coming among us. We who are blessed in so many ways long for the complete joy of your kingdom. We whose hearts are heavy seek the joy of your presence. We are your people, walking in darkness, yet seeking the light. To you we say, "Come Lord Jesus!" AMEN.

Fr. Lincoln

December 11, 2022

We are now in the middle of our Advent season in which we will celebrate Christmas in two weekends. We give thanks for this Advent time of preparation and waiting. Today, we celebrate Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, with the rose colored candle on the Advent wreath, signifying the joy that we feel in our hearts as we journey closer to the day of the birth of our Lord.

Last Thursday, on December 8, we commemorated the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, honoring the conception without sin in which our Blessed Mother was born. Then, last Friday, we commemorated St Juan Diego, the humble Mexican peasant to whom the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe appeared in Mexico City in 1531. The feast day of our Lady of Guadalupe will be celebrated on Monday, December 12. It is appropriate that we honor the Mother of the Lord in different ways as we journey through the holy season of Advent as we prepare and wait for the coming of the Lord.

We hope that you will join us for the Advent reconciliation service this Wednesday, December 14 at 6:00 pm. We are going to have various priests here to listen to your confession. Then, this year, in addition to our 5:00 pm Christmas Eve Mass, we will have a midnight Mass. We will also have our normal schedule of Masses on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25. As this is my first year at Holy Savior and Immaculate Conception, I am looking forward to celebrating Christmas with all of you. Blessings to all of you as we continue our journey during Advent.

Father Lincoln.

December 18, 2022

During the past three Sundays of Advent, in our Sunday Gospel readings, we have heard from John the Baptist, from the prophet Isaiah, and from Jesus himself, as they all helped us prepare a way in our lives for Christmas. This weekend, we hear about how the Angel communicated to Joseph in a dream about the upcoming birth of Jesus. All of these Advent messengers are there to help us and to guide us along our Advent journey. For them and for their message, we give thanks. We have some beautiful and inspiring Advent prayers that accompany us on this journey of preparation.

I want to share the following prayer with you on this last Sunday of the Advent season as the day of the birth of our Savior draws near:

O Emmanuel, you are truly God with us. In this Advent season, we celebrate that you are not hidden in some faraway place. In this holy season, we are called to recognize how you chose to be with us in the mystery of our lives. In the midst of our to-do lists and the rush of this busy season, you are with us in the hymns that echo in our minds, in the light of a candle, in the Christmas messages we receive from family and friends, and in the holy word of God that we hear proclaimed. These are all signs of your presence with us. We turn to you during this holy season in a special way. We pray that you would bring joy, healing, blessing, and hope in our lives. We pray that something wonderful would begin in us during these holy seasons of Advent and Christmas – something surprising and holy. May your hand be upon us, O Lord. Let your love fill us. Let your joy overwhelm us. Let our longing for you be met on the coming holy night of Christmas as you, Emmanuel, are with us once again. Amen.

Father Lincoln

December 25, 2022

We welcome you all to our celebration of the Christmas season at Holy Savior and Immaculate Conception as we begin with our Christmas Masses this weekend. The Christmas season will continue with the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God on January 1 and the feast of the Epiphany on January 8. The Baptism of our Lord concludes the Christmas season on Monday, January 9. We celebrate the Christmas season with great joy as we mark the birth of our Lord. We are looking forward to our parishes' activities in the new year of 2023 as we journey through the Christmas season and then head toward the holy seasons of Lent and Easter. We are glad to have members, guests, visitors, and family members celebrating with us during this joyful Christmas season.

I want to share with you this prayer of Christmas Past, Present, and Future: Gracious God, we turn to you in wonder and praise as we celebrate Christmas. Remind us during this sacred season of our collective story. May our roots extend deep into the soil of faith and spread outward to share the Good News of Christ's coming with others. Focus our attention so that we may remain attuned to the sights, sounds, and sensations of this holy season. May the presence of Christ be at the forefront of our thoughts and actions as we celebrate our holiday rituals. Fill us with hope as Christ is continually born in our world. May we not lose sight of the promise of the kingdom of peace and compassion that is both present and that is to come. With gratitude in our hearts we pray: AMEN. Christmas Blessings to all of you. Father Lincoln.

