

St. Aloysius Catholic Church
211 W. Mason Ave.
Buckley, WA 98321



Christmas Season and New Year Blessings,

My dear brothers and sisters,

Many people, including us, focus on the celebration of Christmas by being present with family members and friends. It draws us towards our relationship with each other and especially towards God. Being with loved ones reminds us of their impact on our lives, whether it is positive or negative. This is a part of living life. We are thankful for their company with us. Therefore, most of us express sincere love by offering presence in the season of Christmas.

This Christmas Season, the word "Gratitude" comes to my mind. Many of us would probably think "Gratitude" as a feeling, but our Catholic belief understands Gratitude is more than just a feeling. It is also an action. An expression of Gratitude moves us beyond feeling. We must do something out of Gratitude for another person. We say "thank you", we worry about another person's difficult situation; we pay attention to their needs.

As Catholics we realized that God has instilled this quality into our heart. In the Gospel of Luke, our Lord has cured ten lepers of their terrible illness (Lk 17:11-19). They were sent away, but only one returned to give thanks to God. This caused our Lord to question about the other nine. Here is a close association between thanksgiving and gratitude.

Most of us give thanks and show gratitude to a good deed done for us. Our action is based on a realization of the blessing we received. As we celebrate Christmas, I would like to say thank you for being a part of our parish community. Your continued love for God gives me courage and a sense of purpose and encouragement in doing what I do as a priest. I give thanks to God because of your presence.

I would also like to take this opportunity to represent our entire parish of Saint Aloysius (Saints Cosmas and Damian) and our staff members wishing you and your family a blessed Christmas and much love coming from our loving God. May the face of God we see in Jesus increase our love for Him in this grace filled season.

On another note, I would like to send a welcome from our parish community to those of you, who have not been back to church. Our Archbishop Etienne has ceased dispensation for weekend Mass participation and Holy Days of obligation. This means our Catholic responsibilities are back to normal, and I would like to welcome you back.

Keep in mind; we are still following the guidelines of local authority for Eucharistic celebration. Social distancing is no longer required with exception of mask wearing when indoors. If you feel under the weather, staying home is always a safety measure for yourself and those we keep in contact with. Going to church is a great way of showing our Gratitude toward God remembering many good things we have because they are God's gifts to us.

I hope and pray that you and your family enjoy this Christmas Season and receive much grace from God.

Your brother in Christ,

Rev. Anh Tran

Fr. Anh Tran, Priest Administrator