

# Pastor's Message

Nov. & Dec 2009

## *Rhythms of Life*

*By: Rev. Dr. Anthony T. Padovano*

November and December celebrate the rhythms of our lives: loss and recovery, despair and hope, anxious waiting and joyous fulfillment.

November 1 is the feast of all the saints and November 2, the remembrance of all the departed. The rhythm is loss, the absence of those we love and miss; then, recovery, the hope expressed in the feast of all the saints, that those we love are not gone. Life for them has not been taken away but changed. They are there and here.

November gives us readings of the end of the world and of the despair that thought brings with it. Then, on November 22, we celebrate the end of the Church's year with the feast of the Reign of Christ and of Love. There is no final end. Life and love are not destroyed. They are invincible.

December is marked with expectation as we wait for hope in the darkness of winter and in the light of Advent candles to show that the light is not extinguished. Then on December 24 we light candles again and the darkness vanishes. We behold the Christ child and meet God in the helplessness and hope of a baby.

The rhythms always end in recovery, hope and joyous fulfillment. The heart-ache is never gone. We are reminded of suffering and failure Sunday after Sunday. But the Sundays always end in triumph, happiness, and immense joy. This is the Christian story of how our lives are meant to be lived.

Anthony