## Dear Friends,

Pope Francis once said, "The most important moments of our lives are the ones in which we make space for others." This quote resonates deeply with me, as it reminds us of the significance of creating room in our hearts and lives for those around us.

In 2024, I invite you to continue or begin to make space for Jesus. Just as we make space for guests, new family members, and newborn children during the most important moments of our lives, we are called by God to make space for Jesus to enter our hearts and guide our paths.

At Saint Clement, we are committed to providing opportunities for you to explore community, faith, and purpose. I encourage you to visit clement.org to discover the winter opportunities that await you. If you are seeking <a href="belonging">belonging</a>, I invite you to engage in the January Ever Wonder Course and the February Alpha Course, both offered at our Lincoln Commons Campus. Additionally, the Lydia Institute for Professional Women and the Men's Executive Series are available for those looking to grow and develop in their respective fields. Our LGBTQ+ outreach ministry, Affirmed, and the Growing in Grace engagement opportunity for those over 50 are also wonderful avenues for finding connection, friendship and purpose.

For those who wish to Grow as <u>Believers</u> we have a range of offerings. Join us for the Online Winter Bible Course on purpose with Fr. John Kartje. The Bible in One Year Course, the Liturgical Ministers Summit, and Small Faith Sharing Groups are also excellent ways to grow as a believer. And for those who are considering embarking on a journey to become Catholic, I encourage you to engage with our RCIA program led by my our awesome associate pastor Fr. Mathew Litak.

If you like to continue or would like to become a <u>leader</u> in our community, we invite you to join us for the "Sing a New Song: Refreshment for the New Year" series with Dr. Lisa Fortini-Campbell. This fourweek series will delve into the themes of Purpose, Discernment, Courage, and Trust, and will provide valuable insights for those seeking to lead with authenticity and spiritual insights.

Lastly, for those willing to share and <u>serve</u> we would love to invite you to join us for the Ministers of Care training. This program equips individuals to bring the gift of the Eucharist to the sick and homebound, and also offers an opportunity to partner with us in the reopening of the Madonna House for immigrant families.

On this weekend when we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, I would like to thank to all the leaders and staff at Saint Clement. Your incredible work has enabled us to engage with over 14,500 individuals through courses, social offerings, and programs. Your dedication and commitment are truly inspiring to me and transforming to others.

As we step into 2024, let us pray that the Holy Spirit guides us forward with renewed commitment to make space for Jesus in our lives. May this new year be filled with blessings, growth, and a deepening of our relationship with Jesus Christ and with each other.

Blessings, Fr. Peter Wojcik Pastor at Saint Clement