

THE SHEPHERDS WALKING STICK

The feast of St. Cecilia (November 22) escaped my attention for it fell on a Sunday. As we know, she is the patroness of music and musicians. It would have been the most appropriate time to acknowledge the service rendered to everybody involved in the music ministry in our parish. Of course, it is not yet too late to do that now. So, in behalf of the entire parish community, I would like to express gratitude to: our accompanists - Monique Rampton, Al Kolt, Jerry Dykman, Jason Vanwynsberghe, Sulio Tuikuka and Dennis Cosio; to our cantors – Els Tessier, Jewel White, Anne Marie del Mundo, and Kitin Cayona; as well to all members in the choirs. St. Augustine said that singing is praying twice. Therefore, we thank everyone in the music ministry for making our liturgies doubly pleasing before God. This Sunday is the 1st Sunday of Advent. Somebody asked me via text message: Why is the Gloria omitted from the Sunday Mass during the season of Advent? Well, it is to “set the mood”. Advent, after all, is a penitential season. As you might have noticed the Gloria is also omitted during Lent because the latter is also a penitential season. However, aside from the Gloria, the singing of the Alleluia is also omitted during Lent. It is because as penitential seasons, Lent is more somber compared to Advent. In Advent, we do penance to give space in our lives for the coming the Messiah; there is still that element of joyful anticipation. In Lent, on the other hand, we do penance to express true sorrow for our sins which is the reason for our Lord’s Passion and Death. Our sincerest gratitude to Marilyn Skubovius for setting up our Advent wreath! The blessing of the wreath is posted on the parish’s social media account.