

January, 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ,

Peace be with you in this New Year! On December 31st, we said goodbye to 2020, a year of much confusion, fear and anxiety for many of us. But because we are all children of God, we trust in Him who is just and merciful and who is with us through everything always and at every time. And we thank Him for this New Year of 2021 - a year of Hope.

Despite the difficulties of the past year, so many of you who were able, worked very hard to make sure the Holy Mass was available to those who could not attend in person by streaming it on TV and on our website. Our online bulletin continued to keep you up to date regarding where and when Mass was to be celebrated, availability of Confession and other sacraments, times and dates for special occasions and services, and office hours. I am grateful for all those who have made this possible. I also thank our whole parish. We are certainly blessed with the most generous and caring parishioners. Your continued support and generosity throughout this year enables us to continue good works and service for the glory of God and is most appreciated. My heart is full of gratitude for all of you.

As you know, we had to put our plans for the renovation of the Religious Education Hall and construction of a new rectory on hold because of Covid-19 and that hold will continue until we can be safe working so closely together again. By the grace of God, we will be able to start later this year.

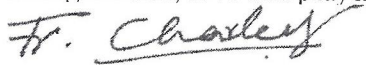
Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent begins February 17. We will have Stations of the Cross in the church every Friday starting at 6:00 p.m., except on Good Friday, April 2 when Stations will be at 3:00 p.m. "Social distancing" and wearing masks are required. Everyone will remain in the pews during Stations. We will be sending more information about Lent and Easter (April 4) out to you later.

Our Bishop Raica extended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days through Sunday, March 14. He also encouraged parishioners who have not yet returned to Mass to make sure the reasons for missing Mass are truly legitimate and encouraged those who can to prudently return to Mass while taking the indicated precautions from health authorities (social distancing and wearing masks, washing hands and using sanitizer).

Our Lady, Queen of the Universe is still a parish full of love for one another. So whether you can attend Mass or you watch from home, you are all loved and we all long for the day we can be together as before. If you are struggling because of Covid-19, please be sure to contact me. We must keep the faith, be strong in our trust in God that there's always a reason for what happens. By trusting God we are able to give Him the glory for not only the good that happens in our lives, but also what we consider to be the bad. His plan is always the best.

As always I thank God for you, my parish family and I pray for you every day. I look forward to this New Year of St. Joseph and pray that he will be with us throughout the year supporting our efforts, protecting us from harm and guiding us in faith, hope and fortitude.

With gratitude, love and prayers,



Fr. Charley