

# MESSAGE FROM THE LAPTOP

## **TURN AWAY FROM SIN AND BE FAITHFUL TO THE GOSPEL!**

*Sunday Greetings Parish Families of HNOJ & HC:*

I pray that our season of Lent has gotten off to a good start and that there shall be a quite different outcome than what we had in 2020. I am presently composing this piece on Saturday evening of the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time so I can only speculate as to what may be. But any time that one can offer thoughts regarding the season of Lent and its important activities of **PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMS GIVING**, it is certain to be a lifechanging season that is good for many a soul.

Sacramental activities have been happening for the past three to four Friday evenings and Saturday mornings as I have had the privilege of welcoming our First Communion students of Holy Cross and Holy Name of Jesus to the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Due to the COVID-19 limitations for special gatherings I have used Fr. Cedro's game plan of handling the Holy Cross students during regular Confession hours and extended it to Holy Name of Jesus and the students there. I do have to say that the opportunity to introduce this year's students and their parents to the hours that are set aside at each parish now for confessions will hopefully instill a recognition about the value of confession outside of special liturgies that certainly make the day wonderful but does not give the direction and appreciation for the sacrament's availability on a weekly basis.

I just would like to rehash, for the benefit of those who may be making a return to sacramental celebrations this Lenten season, that our schedule for Confessions has been changed due to the new arrangement of my administering both parishes. The need to separate confession times from prior to the Saturday evening Masses just had to be. There was no way that I would be able to handle all on each respective Saturday prior to Masses. I have already experienced a Saturday where I had to cover both evening Masses and there would have been no way to deal with confessions in a just and proper manor. **What is now in place for both parishes are confession times that are dedicated for a solid hour on Friday evening beginning at 6:00 for anyone who can visit Holy Name of Jesus. Saturday morning has an hour, beginning at 8:30 for those who can come and join with me at Holy Cross.** I pray that with the season of Lent just beginning that there shall be an uptick in the use of the sacrament and that these new hours will afford an appreciation for the dedicated attention that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is receiving at both parishes.

I neglected to mention in last week's column that with the season of Lent comes the return of **STATIONS OF THE CROSS**. Both parishes will be offering **STATIONS OF THE CROSS** on Friday evenings at 7:00. Deacon Ed will be leading the Stations at Holy Cross each Friday as I have to be at Holy Name of Jesus for confessions each Friday and thus cannot be at Holy Cross for obvious reasons. I do hope that many of you will come out and share in the walk of Jesus to Calvary that line the walls of every Catholic church.

That is all for now. **GO FORTH AND ANNOUNCE THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD. MANY BLESSINGS FOR THE WEEK!!!!**

*Fr. Mike*