

COVID - HELP

“Grace, mercy, and peace will be with us, from God the Father and from Jesus Christ the Father’s Son, in truth and love.” (2 John 1:3)

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

It has been difficult for many of us since the coronavirus struck in March. The impact of the pandemic has affected our lives and the world in so many ways. As we have tried to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe, much of what we were accustomed to has either been reduced or vanished all together.

Although our lives have been changed, we are still filled with great hope. This hope emanates from our faith in Christ our Savior who calls us to remain faithful to him. Our faith is a source of great comfort, especially during times of stress and uncertainty. Our fervent belief in Christ inspires us to carry forward in hope and optimism, and ultimately lifts us to new heights. We need to keep our sights on the Lord.

The members of our Parish Finance Council join me in sending this letter to you asking for your consideration and help. As you can imagine with the church being closed, and just recently reopened our parish income has been significantly reduced. Although our expenses remain the same and have even slightly increased our parish’s financial condition remains strong with a solid level of reserves available to us.

The generosity of the OLM parish community has provided a solid financial foundation for the parish and is testament to our parishioners’ love for our church. I have witnessed the love you hold in your hearts for our parish. I wanted to make you aware of the deficit we are running this year and to remind you of the importance of your regular and generous offerings. Our parish depends solely on your commitment to Our Lady of the Mountain Church.

I would humbly ask you to consider making a one-time donation or increasing your weekly giving to help us to reduce our deficit, and cover the cost of summer maintenance so we will continue to remain financially stable.

I assure you of my pastoral love and the good wishes of our parish finance council!

When you are making the check please Indicate in the memo or on envelope (COVID-HELP)



In the Gospel of the 24th Sunday of ordinary time, Jesus tells us of the need to forgive our brothers and sisters. It is not easy to forgive. The bigger the hurt the more difficult it is to forgive and for many people also the longer it takes to forgive. There are some offences and insults that go on hurting us. Some say: “I forgive, but not forget.” I cannot forget! Why it is that forgiving is so difficult? Do I create a space in my family, my community, my work and my relationships for reconciliation and forgiveness? Is there anything that can help us to forgive those who have hurt us? **Forgiveness is a decision. Decide today to forgive.**

Another thought that should help us to forgive is to remember that Jesus died to save the other person just as he died to save you. Try to visualize the person beneath Jesus on the cross. Can you see Jesus dying for that person?

When someone offends us Jesus asks us to forgive, not just seven times, but seventy seven times, to forgive always. The point of Jesus' parable is that the debt of our sin is beyond what we can humanly pay back to our heavenly Father. Jesus paid that price for us on Calvary.

As long as we do not forgive we are not free. Forgiveness is freedom. If we do not choose the freedom of forgiveness in this life, I believe that in Purgatory we will want to choose the freedom of forgiveness in order to enjoy heaven.

If God has shown mercy to us in granting us pardon for our sins, then we, in turn, must show mercy and forgiveness towards every person who has offended us. The willingness to forgive those who offend us is a sacred duty. If we expect God to pardon us and show us his mercy when we sin and disobey his commandments, then we must be willing to let go of any resentment, grievance, or ill-will we feel towards our neighbor. Jesus teaches us to pray daily for the grace and strength to forgive others in the same measure in which God has forgiven us. If we do not show mercy and forgiveness to our fellow human beings, how can we expect God to forgive us in turn? The Apostle James says that "judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy" (James 2:13).

If we want mercy shown to us we must be ready to forgive others from the heart as God has forgiven us. Do you hold any grudge or resentment towards anyone? Ask the Lord to purify your heart that you may show mercy and loving-kindness to all - and especially to those who cause you grief and ill-will.

WE NEED TO COME BACK TO THE CHURCH!!!

No doubt the pandemic has brought great concern for some members of our community, especially the elderly and those with underlying health conditions. Their caution in resuming pre-pandemic activities is wise. However, there are those of us who can resume our normal activities. It is to you that I encourage to cautiously return to active worship and sacramental life. Five months of little to no worship or sacramental life has brought devastation to the Universal Church. It seems that months of "worship free Sundays" has conditioned the majority of our parishioners to distant themselves from Holy Mass. Just about all of our parishioners go out for shopping, outdoor eating, now even indoor eating and other activities without fear of contamination. Our church, enforcing all health protocols, continues to see only 40% of our parishioners attending Holy Mass (from pre-pandemic attendance numbers). **WITH LOVE FOR CHRIST AND ONE ANOTHER LET US NOT BE FEARFUL OF COMING TOGETHER IN JESUS' NAME.**

...GRANDPARENTS DAY... SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13th...



Grandparents are a family's greatest treasure, the founders of a loving legacy, the greatest storytellers, and the keepers of traditions that linger on in cherished memory. Grandparents are the family's strong foundation. Their very special love sets them apart.

Through happiness and sorrow, through their special love and caring, Grandparents keep a family close at heart.

Lord God almighty, bless our grandparents with long life, happiness, and health. May they remain constant in your love, and be living signs of your presence to their children and grandchildren. We ask this through Christ our Lord. AMEN!!!



Special thanks to all those who help us clean and sanitize our church after weekday and weekend masses: Brian Grogan, Renny and Pam Hodgskin, Marje & Albert Villanueva, Deacon Jim Jones and Michale Leyden. These wonderful parishioners do this task with joy for the love of our church and I thank God for the labor they perform with great humility. **GOD BLESS YOU!!!**