

Sept 1, 2021

Dear Our Lady of Loretto Parishioners, may God bless you all,

Parish Vision for OLL. Enclosed is a brochure detailing the parish vision. It is a vision that has my full support as it centers on sanctity, becoming a saint by doing the will of God. The three areas essential to sanctity are prayer, service and evangelization. As the inside of the brochure explains, OLL will strive to be a house of prayer and study, a source for helping others and a place of mission/evangelization, providing many opportunities for parishioners to grow in sanctity.

Stain Glass Windows. We shall be installing two new stained-glass windows on the Grant Street side of the church. An anonymous donor has given \$28,000 for the first window to be of the Holy Family. The second window will be to honor the Ursuline Sisters and their foundress St. Angela Merici. The Ursuline Sisters were the educators for our school and Sister Jeanette Lombardi is still a member of our community. We have \$17,000 left from the collection for Father Costello's window which will be applied to this. If you are interested in making a donation for the remaining \$11,000, please send a check to the rectory indicating the stained-glass windows. We will also have a second collection for the stained-glass window in September.

Bible Bonus at End of Masses. An important part of the parish vision is OLL as a house of prayer and study—the more we can know about God, the more we can love Him. To that end, starting in November, Wednesday nights will be dedicated to Bible Study and teachings on the Catholic Faith. In order to prepare and promote for these study nights we shall be having a 10-minute “Bible Bonus” after all the English weekend Masses from September 11 thru October 31, 8 in total. Please send us any questions you have about the Bible—to me or Brother Agapetos through email, through regular mail, or drop into the suggestion box we shall have in the church. The priest will answer 2 questions at each Bible Bonus after the Mass.

Parish Finances. We ended our fiscal year at the end of June. I am happy to report that in the year of the Covid pandemic, which saw our parish and school go through a rollercoaster, we are financially stable, having broken even and met our budget. This is due to your remarkable generosity in supporting the parish through difficult times. Thank you very, very much.

Misc. Our Garden Club to maintain our grounds meets every 3rd Saturday from 9am to noon. If you're interested in helping, please come to the plaza on Sept. 18. Garden tools are provided ... The printed bulletin will be returning and distributed at all the Masses starting September 4th ... The beautiful Marian statue that was on top of the parish entrance will be installed in the garden along the handicap ramp. This will offer an opportunity for the parish to do a 33-day Consecration to Mary ... Registration is open for all our Religious Ed programs for children and adults (1st Communion, Confirmation, RCIA). Please go to the website for information.

Replacement for Brother Agapetos. Brother Agapetos will be returning to his religious order in France in mid to late October. He has offered great service and witness to our parish. I am working with the Priest Personnel Board for his replacement. Please pray that God's Will be done and we get an equally wonderful priest.

OLL School. School began on August 18th with an enrollment of 215 students, the highest in several years. Many safety protocols still remain in place but both students and teachers are happy to be back!

Blessings in Jesus, Father Tony Vallecillo