

My Dear Parishioners,

December 2020

This month we prepare ourselves for the upcoming Christmas season of joy, peace, and hope as we once again anticipate the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We celebrate humanity's renewal found in the Incarnation of our beloved Savior. Simultaneously, we recognize the fact that we are still living in a time of uncertainty, confusion and suffering. Despite the fears and great challenges facing us, our families, our community, our nation, and our Church we cling to our faith in God's goodness, our hope in the ultimate fulfillment of His promise to His people, and the unwavering love God has for each of us.

As Catholics, it is incumbent upon us to embrace hope in the future, both in the coming Christmas season and throughout the 2021 New Year. With your renewed hope, faith, and trust in God I pray that you will continue immersing yourself in our parish's community life by joining us in the celebration of the Eucharist and participating in our various parish ministries and programs.

Like many of you, we as a parish have felt the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. While we have taken critical steps to ensure the financial health of our parish, the unfortunate reality is that these unprecedented times have caused a substantial decrease in our offertory collections. Since March, we have incurred a significant loss in our Sunday offertory collections. This loss of income has impacted our parish budget. However, I can assure you that with your continued financial support our parish and ministries will thrive. We **will** continue being beacons of light, faith, hope, and care within our community. You can support St. Mary's by dropping off or mailing your weekly envelope or by using our **secure** online giving platform which can be accessed on our parish website under the "Home" tab titled "eGiving." If you have any questions/concerns about "eGiving" please call Rachel at the parish office (419) 358-8631. Thank you!

May the hope demonstrated and promised to us in the Incarnation inspire optimism within you. May Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bless you and your loved ones. Merry Christmas and Happy and Blessed New Year.

Love & prayers,

Fr. John McLoughlin, C.Ss.R. (Pastor)