



PRAYERFUL SEASON OF CHRISTMAS & HOPEFUL NEW YEAR 2021

POPE FRANCIS: YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

December 8, 2020 to December 8, 2021

Prayer to Saint Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Dear Parishioners and Visitors:

Greetings to all during this challenging times of COVID-19. I pray that our good God is protecting you and your loved ones free from or in fulness of recovery from this horrific virus.

May the prayer of Saint Joseph intercede for us God's truth and tender love. According to Pope Francis, "God's truth does not condemn us, but welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us." God's tender love gives us the strength to overcome our fears, our frailties, and our weakness."

OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT AND PREPARATION FOR MASS ESPECIALLY CHRISTMAS

Since July, we have been celebrating weekday and Sunday masses outdoor in our parish patio. We were hoping that by December, things will get better. Unfortunately, we are in another lock down due to the rise of COVID infections.

Nevertheless, together we collaborate and learn the "agility to rapidly adapt." I am thankful to our parish staff, members of the pastoral liturgy council, and volunteers for their continuing support and creativity. We have configured and reconfigured the outdoor setting to accommodate our parishioners and visitors attending mass.

Everyone coordinates at each mass to make sure everyone is safe and for the celebration to run smoothly: taking temperature of those coming to mass, setting up the sound system, liturgical books and items needed for mass, taking up the offering, cleaning and disinfecting the twenty to forty chairs after each mass. Signing up and checking people in before mass is necessary for social tracing and protection of health for all.

The outdoor flower arrangements add to the sacredness of the celebration. The Facebook live streaming is an important way to evangelize the faith and allow our

parishioners to watch the mass from home.

During the Advent and Christmas season, everyone continues to put forward their best efforts in finding ways to decorate the outdoor environment. Setting up the Advent wreath, Christmas trees, the manger scene, and flower arrangements took a lot of effort in planning and executing. I am grateful to all who made them possible.

Thank you to our Filipino community for planning and organizing our Simbang Gabi liturgical celebrations. Thank you to our senior outreach committee and members of our pastoral liturgy council and finance council for their wisdom and recommendations throughout these many years.

In this issue is our 2019-2020 Parish Financial Report. Thank you for all your financial offering to our parish during this year which allows us to continue the mission of Jesus. Finally, I continue to pray for all who died this year because of Covid-19 and other health related deaths:

Donald Shewfelt (89 years old) and consolation to Joan and the Shewfelt family. Brenna Madrano (18 years old) and consolation to the Medrano family.

SCHOOL AND RELIGIOUS EDUCATION - GREAT JOB

CCS (Cathedral Chapel School) and RE (Religious Education) program, either working from home, church or school, began in August and September with online learning. I am grateful to our school principal, Ms. Tina Kipp, faculty and staff, for their dedication and commitment to academic excellence. CCS invested a lot of time and money learning technologies, attending conferences, purchasing online contents with STEAM focused (STEAM: science, technology, engineering [English], arts, and math) and religion and faith formation. I am thankful to all CCS parents and students for their trust in Catholic education and formation.

I am grateful to Sister Anna Tom and catechists (First Communion and Confirmation), Fran Manion, Cay Chiuco, Chris Carson (RCIA) for their mission in evangelizing and strengthening the Catholic faith and tradition, the Word of God and sacraments every week. The coordination and sharing of resources between our school and church were helpful and appreciative to all.

WISHING ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HOPEFUL 2021 NEW YEAR

The following quote of Saint Gregory Nazianzen (329-390) is fitting for us to pray and reflect during this beautiful time