

1 November 2021

From the Pastor's Desk:

Break out the sweaters and jackets, we are fully into the fall as the overnight temps are below freezing for the week! As we move into November, it is the traditional time of year where the Church remembers the dead. Tuesday, November 2nd, was All Souls Day. Thanksgiving is celebrated this month as well. Ten months of 2021 have passed, and the new year is a stone's throw away.

Mary Our Lady of Peace (MOLOP) held their annual fall Gala, and it was a huge success. Still crunching the numbers, but all indications point to a grand evening and a great time had by all. A big thank you to everyone who helped in any way: purchased raffle tickets (the winner's share was over \$6000), donated a live or silent item for the auction, purchased an item, attended and/or donated to the cost of the food and beverages, and to all those who gave their time and helped that evening in various ways. It takes a good number of hands and legs and working together to make the Gala successful. Thanks to everyone who supported the Gala. Your time and generosity were/are appreciated.

With the end of October, both parishes are still waiting for the first Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA) report. The diocese normally sends out a monthly report. It will let us know how we are doing thus far after about six to seven weeks of the drive. If one has not yet made a pledge, please consider doing so. Making a pledge is a good thing. It not only helps the diocese but helps the parish. Remember, all the money received over the goal comes back to the parish for our use, no questions asked. If one did not receive a pledge card in the mail, and I know some people did not, please contact the respective parish office or pick up a pledge cards in one of the respective parish vestibules. Thanks to everyone for your continued generosity. We couldn't do what we do without you.

On the day-to-day scene, however, after over 18 months of the pandemic and overall meeting our financial obligations, the Sunday collection is beginning to trend downward. For both parishes, the income is falling behind our expenses and we are looking at a major deficit for the first four months of the fiscal year. The fiscal year began July 1, 2021. The Sunday collection is the major source of funding and what is relied on. It is crucial to the financial health of the parish.

Very shortly, one will, or perhaps has, received in the mail an invitation to the Parish Mission coming January 9th through the 13th, 2022. It will be an event one **DOES NOT WANT TO MISS!** The mission is a joint parish event with services every night beginning Sunday, January 9th. The services will rotate back and forth between the parishes. MOLOP will host the mission on Sunday, January 9th, Tuesday, January 11th and Thursday, January 13th. St. Maria Goretti will host on Monday, January 10th and Wednesday, January 12th. Transportation will be provided for those who need a ride. This is an opportunity to **REDISCOVER THE WARMTH OF GOD'S LOVE**, a time for renewal and hope as we begin a new calendar year. A great way to launch 2022. **JOIN US** and make plans now. The evenings will begin at 6:30 with fellowship following. Also, Father will preach the weekday Mass each morning. We are going to add a Monday morning mass at St. Maria Goretti with refreshments following Mass. I can't encourage one enough to please make every effort to participate and attend **the MISSION**

Keep safe and healthy.

Father Tony