



ST. ELIZABETH OF HUNGARY

OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS

ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX

9 December 2020

Dear Parishioners,

While we wait and hasten in this holy season of Advent, let me provide a small gift (enclosed holy card) and a brief update. There is also information from Right to Life enclosed with this mailing.

As most know, an employee tested positive for Covid just before Thanksgiving. For your safety, I self-quarantined, which affected some Masses and two funerals. Deacon Tim really stepped up, covering weekend services, and we are all grateful for his ministry, especially during the pandemic. The staff are all well; no one showed any symptoms. In-person Masses resumed, and staff have resumed working.

My self-quarantine reminded me of how difficult it is to be away from normal human contact. I understand its particularly difficult for the elderly and those parishioners in nursing homes. It is a great cross. Let's also remember parishioners connected to medical care; they can be stressed and exhausted by the demands created by the pandemic. Let us continue to pray that, by this time next year, the vaccine has helped us return to a more normal routine.

The Non-Picnic Picnic chances did great as a fundraiser. It's challenging to sell chances, and the pandemic didn't help. Many thanks to those who put effort into the fundraiser; whether you sold 1 or 100 tickets, we appreciate it! In the end, this year was a good step forward, away from the notion of simply digging deeper to give more and towards the idea of making an effort to raise outside funding.

Looking towards Christmas we faced a dilemma. On one hand, we must abide by the social distancing guidelines out of love of neighbor. On the other hand, we don't want to turn people away from Christmas Mass. One solution would be to take reservations, but it creates a great deal of bureaucracy. Another solution is to have as many Masses as allowed in the hopes of creating smaller, more manageable crowds. We've opted for the latter, especially given the Archbishop's dispensation that allows for Christmas Vigil Masses to begin as early as 2:00 PM. Thus, the Pax Christi Collaborative's Christmas and New Year's Day Mass schedule is as follows:

24 December 2020	2:00 PM	Our Mother of Sorrows
24 December 2020	4:00 PM	St. Therese of Lisieux
24 December 2020	5:30 PM	Our Mother of Sorrows
25 December 2020	midnight	St. Elizabeth of Hungary
25 December 2020	9:00 AM	St. Elizabeth of Hungary
1 January 2021	8:00 AM	Our Mother of Sorrows
1 January 2021	12:00 PM	St. Therese of Lisieux
1 January 2021	7:00 PM	St. Elizabeth of Hungary

Blessings upon you during this holy season of Advent!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Philip Lee Erickson".

Very Rev. Philip Lee Erickson, JCL, KHS
Pastor, Pax Christi Collaborative