

My Dear Parishioners of St. Mary of the Purification,

Wish you a Merry Christmas and a very happy New year 2021. May the Child Jesus Christ bless and protect you and your dear ones especially at this time of pandemic.

As we all go through an exceptional era with this pandemic, let us give importance to our health and the health of our loved ones in this Christmas season.

I would like to inform that in these days of uncertainty, I keep you all in my daily prayers and in my daily Mass. I intercede for you and for your families every day. Please keep me and my health in your prayers. Let us pray that this pandemic may be over soon.

We do have our regular Masses and the restricted office hours. Though the pandemic has put lot of barriers for our regular activities in the parish, I want you to know that we are here to help you in your spiritual needs. We can be reached at any time by telephone or email. Reach out to us whenever you are in need of spiritual support.

At this time of pandemic, the obligation to go to Sunday Mass has been dispensed by the bishops. Those who wish and those who can, you are very warm welcome to our Sunday Masses and week day Masses. We do take all the precautions of pandemic protocol – sanitizing, disinfecting, cleaning etc. – to keep our church clean and safe for our parishioners.

The Christmas Eve Mass schedule is annexed with this letter. I will have four Christmas Eve Masses and one Christmas Day Mass in Mount Forest. You can choose the one that fits you if you choose to come. At this time based on the government of Ontario health guidelines, we can accommodate maximum 75 people in one Mass. Therefore, we request you to inform us the preferred time and the number of people attending the Mass by sending us the annexed paper or calling the parish office (519 323 1054) and leave the details or email (stmarymtforest@wightman.ca) with your information.

In spite of this pandemic situation, you are very generous towards your parish. It is because of your ongoing support that we are still able to run the parish and maintain the church and the facility. I am so grateful to each and every one of you for your financial contribution. I am so impressed and admire your love and concern for your parish. You are great and May God bless you and your family abundantly.

I thank all the volunteers at the parish, especially those who clean and disinfect the church at this time of pandemic. The volunteers are working hard and sacrifice their time for the greater good of our parish. Your work is appreciated. Special thanks go to Virginia McComiskey for her committed service to the church. I also would like to acknowledge and thank our secretary Katarina Smolkova our book keeper Annette Connolly for their hard work at the office.

Since we have started the “Pre-Authorized Direct Deposit” system in our parish to receive your contributions, may I kindly request you to consider this option. This is not a MUST but an optional. However, I really encourage you to consider this option prayerfully if you are not currently participating in the Pre-Authorized Direct Debit. This will definitely help our parish to have a steady flow of income especially at this time of pandemic to maintain our parish. Please contact the parish office if you wish to have further information.

Also remember St. Mary of the Purification parish in your will and when recommending expressions of sympathy.

May God Bless you all abundantly and may our Parish continue to grow in faith, respect and love of one another.

Be safe and all the best in 2021.

*Fr. Joe Selvanayagam*

Fr. Joe S. Selvanayagam

Pastor



*I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Holy New Year filled with prosperity and good health.*

*May the Good Lord Jesus Bless you and your Family and may he continue to bless all your work and efforts.*

*May He keep you safe in the New Year 2021.*

*Let us altogether work for the greater good of  
St. Mary of the Purification Parish*



In the time leading up to Christmas, the Catholic Church celebrates advent. Advent is a necessary part of the Christmas season because it is the time when Catholics repent for their sins and perform penance. They want to be as pure as they can be when Christmas comes, in order to receive the gift of God's presence at the Christmas Mass of Holy Eucharist. During Advent, there are four candles that are lit each week before Christmas.

In addition, the Church teaches that:

*[w]hen the Church celebrates the liturgy of Advent each year, she makes present this ancient expectancy of the Messiah, for by sharing in the long preparation for the Saviors first coming, the faithful renew their ardent desire for his second coming. By celebrating [John the Baptists] birth and martyrdom, the Church unites herself to his desire: He must increase, but I must decrease (Catechism, no. 524; original emphasis).*

On Christmas day, families attend church and receive the Holy Eucharist. They celebrate the birth of Christ and the church is typically decorated with a nativity scene and other decorations, in stark contrast to the decoration-less advent season.

