

August, 2023

I greet you with peace and joy as you enjoy the beautiful summer. I am writing these words on the Feast of Joachim and Ann, the grandparents of Jesus, parents of Mary. Pope Francis used this feast to establish World Grandparents Day in 2021 since he believes, grandparents are often forgotten, yet they “are the link between generations, passing on the experience of life and faith to the young”. This year Pope chose the theme “His mercy is from age to age”, which he recalled, takes us back to the joyful meeting between the young Mary and her elderly relative Elizabeth (Lk 1:39-56). Our parish is proud to have all our grandparents who are the foundation and backbone of our Catholic Faith. Thank you for sharing your life and faith to all our young ones.

One of the greatest assets of our parish is the strong faith of our grandparents and great grandparents. I have seen how passionate you are with your prayers and support to encourage and help your little ones interested in faith. I have also heard your heartbreaks about children who are not practicing their faith and moved away from the church. I want to assure you that your prayers and heart aches for your children, grandchildren and great children will not be in vain. You keep encouraging them and pray for them, they will discover how much God loves them and come back to Him.

We are updating the parish directory with the basic information of your name and address. We would like to include your phone number and email in it. We will try to reach you to update your details through our pastoral council members and other volunteers in the coming days. In case you do not want to use your phone number or email please inform the office. In the future we will make a digital directory with your photographs that can be regularly updated.

We are also updating our website and please share your suggestions how we can make it more user-friendly, informative and interactive.

Finally, as we are preparing for the new school year, I want to encourage all our young families with children to take seriously faith formation as a priority. Imagine all the sacrifices you make to educate your children and support them in their co-curricular activities. Invest also your time and sacrifices to help them grow in faith. We will have a family focused faith formation program this year and I invite all parents with children come to our first day on September 10, from 8 am for a Family Breakfast and discussion to plan for the year. Please read my letter on the other side for details. Join us also for the Family Fest on September 16, Saturday from 2 pm to 7 pm at our 116th site.

Wishing a wonderful rest of the summer season and asking for God’s Blessings upon you,
Yours in the Lord,

Fr. Matthew Perumpil,MI
Pastor

Message to Parents and Children of our Parish

Dear Parents and beloved children of Mother of Perpetual Help Parish,

I am sure you are enjoying the summer break and all the outdoor fun, sports, activities and travel with your family and friends. Soon you will be getting ready for another exciting and challenging year of academics. I am also looking forward to seeing you all more often as we do in the regular year in the church and at our faith formation program.

Families are the heartbeat of our parish. You delight us with your children, enliven us with your energy, and carry the gospel message to our communities. When we ignite families in the faith, our parish, our community and the entire society gets enriched. Imagine if all the families in our parish prayed regularly, participated in the sacraments, and allowed God's grace to fill the sails of our lives. It would renew our parish and transform our world. This is my hope for us this year.

I believe parents are the best teachers to their children, especially with your life and example. Therefore, I would like to reimagine the way we do our faith formation program in our parish this year. Our catechism teachers will assist you in this important role in forming our children in faith and help them grow closer to Jesus and our Catholic faith. But you will be their primary teachers as you pray with them, read and reflect the scriptures at home and come together to church to receive the grace of the sacraments on Sundays, especially the participation of the Eucharist as believing community. Your sacrifices and example will surely influence your children to grow stronger in faith and become the great children and individuals you want them to be. We will assist you with all the resources and support you need.

Our Faith formation program will begin on **September 10th with a Family Day**. Come with your children for a lovely breakfast from 8 am at our parish center. We will plan together our program for this year and go through the registration and all other logistics including special events we plan for this coming year. Our catechism teachers will be there to guide you and support you for a great year ahead. We will conclude with the 10:30 am Mass. I am also excited to share that we will have two religious nuns joining our team to guide us in our faith formation later this year.

Another exciting day for our families and children will be **September 16th from 2pm to 7pm** for a FAMILY FUN FEST with food, fun, and games at our 116th site, which is also our school site. Families and children from our school will also join us. We will have the Mass at 4 pm as part of this Family event of the parish. Please plan ahead and mark your calendar.

Sending you Blessings and asking our Mother of Perpetual Help to intercede for you for a wonderful year ahead,

Yours Lovingly,
Fr. Matthew