

March 2021

Once again, we enter an unusual season of Lent. Yet, at the same time, we have so many opportunities to grow in so many ways. This Lent, we have a special focus on Congo Helping Hands and all of the great things that have been accomplished through the generosity and the prayers of all our parish members. Going back to the very beginning, when we were physically able to supply the missions, we were able to send shipping containers of sewing machines, tools and medical equipment to help the blind and deaf children of the Mpandilu schools. This was followed by a special water project, which created drinking water for thousands. Remember a few years ago when over \$40,000 was donated towards emergency food and reestablishing family farms? Last year, a great challenge was accomplished as we were asked to help fund the reworking of the St. Joseph's School. (The video of that presentation is on the website.) This year we turn to you again for help in sustaining all of these different projects. I would like to thank you again for your support of this work of love, which has been spearheaded for so long by one of our parish members, Jeff Mullins.

Stay tuned as we prepare for the final sale and celebration of St. Aloysius Parish. Please remember that we will be in touch with everyone as soon as those dates are available. Once again, I want to personally express my love and gratitude to all our former St. Aloysius Parish members, who for so many years worked to sustain the parish and have also so generously worked with us in the merger process. Thanks to all of you!

Beginning right away, we will be taking reservations for the Easter Sunday Masses. We will be using a color-coded ticket system – one color per mass. To reserve your spot, we ask that you call the parish office with your family name, phone number and number of attendees. In fairness, if you sign up for a time, you must keep that time – we are not able to change reservations. We will notify you when your tickets are ready, and you MUST pick them up at the parish office. We will be taking reservations up to Monday, March 29. Our Easter Mass times are 8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:00 am.

Regarding my own health, there has been another change. I have developed tumors in my liver which need to be treated immediately. You have all been so loving and kind with your prayers and support. Now, I am going to ask you for a very special favor. The treatments are going to be difficult. I would like you to pray for me, keeping in mind all the suffering of our parish and for the continued growth and success of Mother of Perpetual Help Parish. Along with this mailing please find the prayer sheet that you may use in asking our own Blessed Solanus Casey, OFM Cap. for his special help. As we celebrated his beatification, we shared the story of his life. As you will see in the prayer flyer, he told us to always “thank God ahead of time”. Every Lent reminds us that we are all experiencing the dying and rising of Jesus in our lives and in our own way. Going forward, may we continue to become the Mother of Perpetual Help Parish we are meant to be.

Thank you for all that you do! Fr. Jeff