

December, 2022

This monthly letter from your pastor comes to you after you have celebrated the Thanksgiving weekend with your family and loved ones. We continue to thank God for all our blessings, and I join you as the shepherd of our parish family, to thank God for all our spiritual blessings throughout this year.

We have entered a new liturgical year, preparing and waiting for the great coming of Jesus to live with us. What a beautiful imagery of the liturgical cycle and the symbol of the Advent Wreath reminding us of God's eternal presence in our lives. As Catholics, we are also privileged to experience Jesus' living presence in our lives through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Let us prepare with Hope for the coming of our Lord into our lives and invite Him to dwell with us to fill our lives with Joy. Advent is also a time to renew our spiritual lives with the merciful love of Christ. I encourage you to receive the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation to heal us and make us a fitting dwelling place for Jesus like Mary.

I am very happy to share with you our plan of dedicating and blessing the shrine of our Lady of Guadalupe, the Patroness of the Americas, with a special Mass in our main worship site on her Feast Day of December 12th at 6 pm. Please join us through your presence and prayers entrusting our parish under the care and protection of our Blessed Mother.

As you know from my previous letters and communications, our Love One Another Campaign was supposed to achieve our goal and end at the closing of 2022. Unfortunately, we are still far from our goal at this point. As I write this letter, we have only achieved 36% of our goal. We should have been at least 60% of our goal at this stage, as most parishes like us have achieved. It makes me worried about our future. I understand the tough times we are in and the anxieties we have about the future. Many of the pledges we received were one-time donations, not pledges for 5 years. I ask you humbly, once again, to pray and consider making your pledge for five years, thereby investing in the future of our faith and parish community. The Lord will bless you for all your sacrifices and generosity.

Let me conclude by thanking you all for your love for the church and the support you give me to lead our parish as a caring shepherd. May you have a great season of Advent and joyful celebration of Christmas.

With love and Prayers,
Fr. Matthew Perumpil, MI
Pastor