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## Our Lady of the Lake Parish

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Friday, March 5, 2021

Dear family in Christ,

Greetings in Christ the LORD! I hope your Lenten season is off to a good start and that you are all taking the time to remain with Jesus in this journey with Him to the joy and new life of Easter. This year continues to pose many challenges because of the Pandemic and I just want to say how proud I am of our entire parish family for getting through this very difficult year together. Many of us have had COVID. Many of us have taken care of relatives and friends who have had COVID. Tragically, many of us too have had to mourn the loss of someone we know and love who has died because of this virus. Thank you all for your trust in the LORD and remaining close to Him in all the ways you and your families have during this past year.

Many of you have received a phone call recently from me or one of our volunteers to say hello and to check in with you to see how you are doing. It is very important to me since I don't see you all as often to make sure you are all doing okay. I love you and miss you all. Thanks to all of you for your honest feedback and prayer intentions. I am receiving them all and I am praying for all of you by name. If you have not received your phone call yet, you will soon.

The other purpose of the phone call was to ask for your support for this year's Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) for the parish. The Pandemic has forced us to reach out to you in a different way this year. Our bill/assessment we owe to the Diocese this year is \$62,000. If we don't receive that in your generous pledges and payments, we have to take this from our parish savings. You are always so generous though and since I have been here, we have always been able to fulfill our obligations to the Diocese from your gifts. Thank you! As most of you know, what we receive above and beyond our Diocesan obligations stays right here at our parish. This year our CSA surplus will go towards supplementing our loss in offertory income that we have sustained this year because of the Pandemic. Your participation is needed more than ever this year. I am more interested in your participation than in how much you pledge or give. This parish is a family, and we all need to do our part. The goal is for every parish family to

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participate in this year's CSA. Even if all your family is able to give is \$5, \$10, \$20 that is not too small as long as you participate.

During this season of Lent this is a great way to fulfill our LORD's call for all of us to give alms and to imitate His generosity to others. I am right there with you and I will never ask you to do anything that I won't do myself. My pledge to this year's CSA has been made. I am also including in this letter the schedule for Holy Week and Easter for this year at Our Lady of the Lake. Similar to the Christmas Season, the schedule will look a little different. For Easter Masses we will have a similar system like Christmas (hopefully this is the last time we have to do this) where we will need you to make a reservation to ensure that we can social distance and keep our capacity numbers in check for the church. As of now, per the Diocese and the State of Pennsylvania our capacity for the church is still 100 people.

The procedure to make your reservation is the same as at Christmas time. Please email or call the parish office with the Easter Mass you will be attending and the number of tickets you will need for yourself and your family. We will have four Masses for Easter, and, if necessary, I will add as many as are needed to accommodate everyone. Right now, the Easter Masses are as follows:

- Sat., April 3<sup>rd</sup>; 9pm (Easter Vigil)
- Sun., April 4<sup>th</sup>; 8am
- Sun., April 4<sup>th</sup>; 10:30am
- Sun., April 4<sup>th</sup>; 12pm

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I know there is a lot in here. Please know always of my love for all of you. You are in my prayers every day and I am longing for the day soon when we can all be back at Mass together and get back to normal. I really miss you all! In the meantime, I hope you know you can always call or email me, and I would love to catch up with you and pray with you anytime. Continued blessings to you all during this holy season of Lent!

Peace of Christ to you all!

*Fr. Dan*

Rev. Daniel R. Hoffman  
Pastor

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