



Our Lady of Sorrows Church

January 3, 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear People:

The Feast of the Epiphany with its scriptural passage from Ephesians reminds us that salvation was promised first to the Jews and with Christ, the invitation was extended to the Gentiles. This is the feast of the revelation of God to the Gentile world. This revelation is reflected in the wise men who were called from the East to worship the newborn King. Since we are Gentiles, we should be celebrating God's goodness to us on this feast.

"God's Plan to Support His Church" is a booklet I recently wrote and one that I promised to be my last. Actually, I really think the Lord wanted me to rewrite the booklet I wrote 60 years ago, and this "God's Plan to Support His Church" is a complete rewrite on a pamphlet that was so popular that it was mentioned in *Newsweek* magazine 60 years ago when *Newsweek* was a popular magazine.

It is the story of Fr. Jennings, ordered by the bishop to build a nice church and school on an open lot. He was my first pastor in 1957 and was worn out with the work of an assistant putting on festivals, lawn parties, running bingo as often as people would come, and keeping a book of tickets in his pocket and asking anyone he would meet to "take chances."

Fr. Jennings simply thought that if people would give 5% of their earnings, everything would eventually be built and supported. It became known as the 5% parish tithing. Then he realized people gave another 5% to Catholic education, diocesan Catholic Charities, second collections, the Red Cross, United Way, and grandmother in a nursing

home which she could not afford, and "Bingo" that was the other 5% of which the Scriptures mentions 46 times. And yes, twice of those 46 were in the Gospels (ex. Matt. 23,23).

The American Bishops have recommended 5% given to the parish, and here is where the parish stands two weeks after the tithing drive. We have 1500 families registered, and so far, we are missing the pledges of 1100. I know many are retired, unemployed, or feel they can increase the support of the parish only 1 or 2% a year until it hits that magical number of 5%. We need to see this on the tithing card for the finance committee. With about 1100 still praying and thinking, we know the hardships of many, and we still believe there are those out there who will call the office for the pledge card they have lost and will fill in.

I have already sent each a copy of "God's Plan to Support His Church." The Scriptures say: "Try me in this and see if I don't open unto you the floodgates of blessings in abundance." Read how I, personally, have experienced the result of this trust in God.

A holy, happy, healthy New Year to each of you. We have completed another year of our lives on this earth and since the purpose of life is to glorify God, we thank Him for 2020 and the graces to accept the crosses of life, such as the Coronavirus. We also thank God for the good times, the blessings, the opportunities and health this past year. We need to keep primarily in our minds the blessings. The sickness and financial setbacks pale in comparison to the blessings of receiving Jesus in the Eucharist and His promise of the perfect happiness of heaven.

Resolutions

It is of great spiritual value to partake of the world-wide tradition to make resolutions to improve our lives at the beginning of each calendar year. The following is a list of suggestions. Some, or at least one, will fit

each one of us. Which ones really apply to us individually?

1. More preparation and devotion at Sunday Masses;
2. Renewed dedication to reciting the morning offering;
3. Less selfishness in family life. Not always being concerned about our own problems but willing to listen to others;
4. Thinking more about our eternal destiny and heaven so that other things will fall into better perspective;
5. Realizing more that our bodies are temples of God and need to be respected and kept in good shape;
6. Less television;
7. Doing our duty according to our state in life, as best we can;
8. Going to daily Mass when possible.

Certainly, one or more of these suggestions can hit home. Maybe you can think of others more specific to your personal life!

I told a lady last year how much I admired her because she has been a successful member of AA for two years. I said, "You have great will power." She said, "I do not. That's why I joined AA. We make our resolutions not to drink and put it in the hands of God, telling Him how much help He has to give us weak-willed people."

Great idea! Let us keep identifying our resolutions and putting them in the hands of God for help.

I wish you much happiness, health, and spiritual growth in each coming New Year.

With prayers and blessings,
Father Muller

Bishop Raica has extended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation through Sunday, January 10. We will continue to livestream Masses. The moral obligation of keeping the Lord's Day holy remains, even for those who use the dispensation and do not attend Mass.



Monday, Jan. 4	Special Intention David Caprara Barbara Mills
Tuesday, Jan. 5	Frank & Peggy Beuerlein Mateo D'Agro Michael N. Renda
Wednesday, Jan. 6	Jim Mabry Will Mosier Souls in Purgatory
Thursday, Jan. 7	Special Intention David Caprara Souls in Purgatory
Friday, Jan. 8	Jude Tombrello Mary Laurie Bracken World Peace
Saturday, Jan. 9	Donors to OLS School Foundation Souls in Purgatory World Peace
Sunday, Jan. 10	People of Parish Mary Dirgo Mildred Stephens



Vincent Lucia, Joyce Cunningham, Julie Cunningham, Carmela Yeakle, Ronnie Williams, Carolyn Jefferson, Bob Doyle, Donald Taccone, Ellen Scalise, Tim Carlisle, Tom James, Mike Skellie, Harriet Dupree, Alan Pizzitola, Kenny Skellie



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS

Look about you! Can you see the glory of God? Open your heart to receive the gifts God is offering you. (Isaiah 60:1-6)
For our Church leaders, may they be guided by the light of Christ.

Annual Respect Life Mass and Witness for Life Saturday, January 16, 2021

Respect Life Mass
9:00 AM · Our Lady of Fatima
708 1st St S, Birmingham

Prayer Vigil and Witness for Life
10:45 AM · Planned Parenthood
1019 1st Ave. North, Birmingham

Pandemic Protocols Encouraged
Contact: 205-447-8796

Food for Our Journey update:

We are serving almost 700 meals a day, seven days a week. The OLS food drive every Wednesday is vital to our ability to serve the homeless and food insecure in our community. We are handing out close to 700 bottles of water a day, so **we really need water**. Also, we are getting constant requests for socks and masks. If you have clean, gently used, or new socks, we need them. If anyone has access to masks of any kind, we would love to have them. We thank all of you who have donated so far and look forward to seeing all of you who can donate every Wednesday (drop offs accepted from 9 -10:30 a.m.) in the parish parking lot.
Christine Golab, Assistant Executive Director

What's Going on in Youth Ministry?

LifeTeen High School

Sunday, January 10: Our brand new "Connect" series starts today! There are saints who walked among us and soon-to-be-saints who walk among us now. These bold women and men are examples for us of what joyful, holy, and abundant life in Christ looks like. We will look at the world through their lives in this Connect Group series and use their examples as a challenge for us to grow in our holiness and relationship with God. Dinner starts at 7 p.m. See you there!

Wednesday, January 13: Co-ed "Unleashed" small group and dinner at 7 p.m. in the youth room. This 6-week study focuses on HOPE. We see the word often enough – perhaps in perfect script, painted upon a wooden plaque, hanging on a wall in a kitchen...but is hope more than just a trendy verb? Come discuss with us!

Saturday, January 16: Catholic Youth on Mission at the Birmingham March for Life! We will have a youth rally featuring Laura Barksdale! More info. To come.

EDGE Middle School

Sunday, January 10: Join us for a celebration in honor of the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord! Dinner starts at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Hall! Masks are required.

Edge is in need of a **parishioner with some carpentry skills** who would be willing to donate their time to construct some special equipment for our youth this semester. Contact Carol Wiget at msyouthminister@ourladyofsorrows.com if you can help.

For complete calendars, check out www.olsyouth.com.