



Our Lady of Sorrows Church

January 24, 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear People:

Christmas cards have a way of, first, reminding us of the birthday of our Savior. But there are, also, those notes or letters included from people we have not heard from since last Christmas. One of the cards that had a lasting impression on me was from a former student of mine from John Carroll during the late '60's. He was bright, finished dental school, entered the Marines and worked on the soldiers' teeth. When he finished his tour with the Marines he went back to the dental school and became one of the best-known professors. He taught so many of the dentists I know, even my present dentist, Dr. Cabrera. This former student was named as a possible president of the dental school. His name is Dr. Milton Essig, DMD.

Dr. Essig carried the discipline of the Marines into his classes, and when students finished, they were grateful to have learned so much from him. He is retired and happily married to his wife, Rita, and when the churches were temporarily closed in Orange Beach, they religiously watched the Masses streamed from OLS and found that it was a great opportunity and found how much the effort of streaming the Holy sacrifice to his home so far away was good for his faith. This made me reflect on the initiative of our OLS people.

Lay Involvement

Chapel of Our Savior: We all know that it was laymen, Mary Claire Brouillette and Ida Wilker, who told me that they would like to start Perpetual Adoration. And what a success it has been! Though we shut down for a short time for the epidemic, we resumed in a short manner as strong as it ever was before, now going on 27 years and presently under the leadership of Bo Lovell and Stephanie Zicarelli Bannon.

The Sodality, with the different guilds, has various social projects that keep going on.

The Knights of Columbus have the priests' support, but it is mainly the laymen who keep their projects going.

Live streaming the Mass: Bishop Raica said people at home like to see Mass from their own priests and parish. Eric Dooley knew somebody with equipment and cameras the he was willing to let us use during this "short time" pandemic, which Eric, amazingly, had set up almost overnight. Then OLS, under the direction of Eric, purchased our own equipment. So, we are in for the long duration. Bo Lovell coordinates the volunteers who produce and stream weekday Masses, Saturday and Sunday Masses, funerals, and many other special events. Kevin Fehr, a regular "operator," has trained his grandson, OLS 8th Grader Jimmy McMillan, how to work with the equipment, so when the school has their Mass, it is a student who is operating the cameras. Other operator/producers include Youth Minister Ginny Dooley, Shannon Sykes, Jerry Fritz, and Bo Lovell.

More Lay Parish Involvement

Sacristans, hard workers and not often given the credit with a committee of four: John Tombrello, Frances Andrews, John Carney Kent Graeve, and Jeannie Wade, do phenomenal work with the vestments, candles, cleaning, flowers, ordering supplies, and the list goes on.

Christmas decorations were so great this year that I dare to say no one entered the Church this Christmas without an awesome inspiration that Jesus deserved all those decorations as we celebrated His birthday. We have outsourced the talent in the past, but we realized we have in-house talent who are even better, and they rose to the occasion. It took days to decorate the angels, the artistic pictures of Divine Mercy and the Assumption, the balcony, climbing ladders and more ladders. Keeping the flowers

watered also took days and more days. When those gorgeous, unique decorations had to come down, it was more ladders and more days. I cannot resist naming those decorating “helpers” to John Tombrello, our in-house floral architect: Joe Alesce, Frances Andrews, John Carney, Jerry Fritz, Christina Fritz, Carson Galloway, Grayton Galloway, Kent Graeve, Larry Johnson, Mary Rupinski, Norma Kay Sprayberry, Mary Catherine Tombrello, Jeannie Wade, Tina Wos, John Michael Wos, Mia Wos, and Greg Wos.

Donations of food for the poor are taken weekly to the Catholic Center of Concern, “Food for Our Journey” collects every Wednesday, as well as delivering 200+ meals every other Sunday, cooked by Angie Dunston and friends. So, it is food for the hungry, as well as so many donations to the charities of our parish.

If someone asks why Fr. Muller doesn’t retire from OLS, the answer is, simply, the above.

With prayers and blessings,
Father Muller

WARNING: There was a car break-in on property last Saturday evening. The window was broken, and a purse was stolen from the vehicle. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PURSE OR OTHER VALUABLES IN YOUR CAR.**

Bishop Raica has extended the dispensation from the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation through Sunday, March 14, the 4th Sunday of Lent. 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.



Mass Intentions

Monday, Jan. 25	Special Intention David Caprara Michael Renda
Tuesday, Jan. 26	Special Intention Mary Laurie Bracken Mary Claire Brouillette
Wednesday, Jan. 27	Special Intention Sp. Int. Martha Masucci Jerry Blackmon
Thursday, Jan. 28	Lillie Rumore Sp. Int. Phillip Zicarelli Michael Renda
Friday, Jan. 29	Joe Musso Anne Butera Michael Kelliher
Saturday, Jan. 30	Donors to OLS School Foundation Sp. Int. Mary Rembert Michael Renda
Sunday, Jan. 31	People of Parish Mary Claire Brouillette Michael Renda



Pray FOR THE SICK
Joyce 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

If you were Peter or Andrew, James or John, would you be able to follow Jesus with abandon? What is holding you back? (Matthew 4:12-23)
For all who are preparing for ministry as a priest, deacon, lay minister, religious priest, brother or sister.

What's Going on in Youth Ministry?

LifeTeen High School

Sunday, January 24: Fire pit and hot chocolate on the parking deck starting at 7 p.m.! Join us as we pray for our country.

Wednesday, January 27: Co-ed "Unleashed" small group at 7 p.m. in the youth room. Dinner will be provided. This 6-week study focuses on HOPE. All are welcome!

SAVE THE DATE: March 6, will be a service retreat day for high schoolers with *Food for Our Journey!*

EDGE Middle School

Sunday, January 24: Please join us to kick-off our semester theme "The Artist!" This Sunday, our Edge Night "Art Show" will help us to explore how we can know God exists. Dinner starts at 7 p.m., pick-up is at 8:30 p.m. Meet in the Assembly Hall. Masks 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.

OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED!

If you have struggled to read the Bible, this podcast is for you. Ascension's *Bible in a Year* Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes starting January 1st, 2021. Each 20-25 minute episode includes:

- two to **three scripture readings**
- a **reflection** from Fr. Mike Schmitz
- **guided prayer** to help you **hear God's voice in his Word**.

Unlike any other Bible podcast, Ascension's *Bible in a Year* Podcast for Catholics follows a reading plan inspired by the Great Adventure *Bible Timeline*® learning system, a **groundbreaking approach to understanding Salvation History** developed by renowned Catholic Bible teacher Jeff Cavins. Tune in and live your daily life through the lens of God's word!

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
