

Our Lady of the Lake Church
Our Lady of the Lake Regional Catholic School
1037 West Houghton Lake Drive ~ PO Box 800
Prudenville, MI 48651



February 5, 2021

Feast of Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

Dear Parishioners,

ASH WEDNESDAY AND ASHES: The Lenten season this year is unique in so many ways. With the Covid-19 pandemic still a cause of serious concern, there is a modification on how and when the ashes will be distributed on Ash Wednesday, February 17, which is the beginning of the Lenten Season. There will be two Masses on Ash Wednesday, 9AM and 6PM. Ashes will be distributed at the end of Mass. Ashes will be sprinkled on each person's head.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS every Friday at 3PM beginning with Friday February 19th in the church during the Lenten Season.

CONFESSIONS DURING LENT: Lenten season is a period of penitential preparation for Easter. Confessions will be available every Friday, 10AM to 11AM in the church. Confessions on other days and times is by appointment only. Please call the office 989-366-5533.

PARISH SUPPORT: Thank you for the prayers and for your continued support to the parish family. With your financial contributions we are able to pay our bills. Giving is an opportunity to worship God, to bless others, and to receive blessing from God by offering up a pleasing sacrifice to him. "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Heb. 13:16)

CSA CAMPAIGN: Thank you again for your generous donations towards our Catholic Services Appeal (CSA). We were able to meet our target of \$43,141.00.

LENT DAILY REFLECTION BOOKLETS (Saginaw Little Books) will be available at the three entrances of the church for personal use and pick up.

WEEKLY COLLECTION ENVELOPES are still available in the church's gathering space for those who have not yet picked up theirs. You can also do electronic or online giving.

SCHOOL UPDATE: Since OLLRCS opens her doors for the 2020/21 school year in August 25, 2020, teachers and staff made the necessary changes to keep OLLRCS open with face to face instruction every day. Our enrollment has increased from 45 students last year to 58 this year and are expecting two additional students this month. This is about 33% increase in our enrollment this year. The principal, Ms. Michelle Johnson, informed me that we have a waiting list of over 15 students and are getting weekly calls to enroll students for next year. Our staff has built a safe and family atmosphere that our parents seem very pleased with. Thank you for your support and prayers which allowed many students to receive a high quality education, religious and moral formation through OLLRCS.

I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS! These were the very words of Jesus before his ascension into heaven. To say it differently "We are in this together." Covid-19 has encroached on the daily lives of most of us in many ways. Isolation may be one of the difficult things we face. Self-isolation, and the limitation placed by various state and federal guidelines have left many of us with an immeasurable sense of not being part of

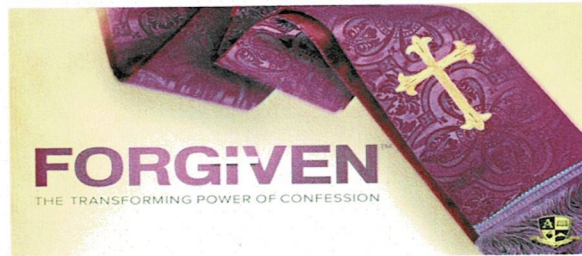
our extended family, our neighborhoods, and even our church family. Sometimes the isolation meant that families with children had to live, work, and go to online school in the same place. For them, the isolation was not being alone but being too close in what had been adequate space, but which overnight became too crowded for comfort. Let's be mindful of what I may call 'double pandemic of social isolation and Covid-19, like surges in mental health concerns, substance abuse, and domestic violence.

We continue to clean, sanitize, and fog the church and the school after use. The church doors will be closed between 10AM and 10:30AM (30mins) for fogging, on Tuesday – Friday each week. We want people to be safe and to feel safe to attend Mass and other liturgies here at Our Lady. We take our responsibility to do all we can to keep everyone safe seriously. We continue to practice above-normal sanitation protocol for the sake of those who physically require a clean space due to COVID susceptibility.

LIVE STREAMING: We continue to live stream the weekend Masses as long as possible or is needed for those unable to attend. You can watch the Mass at Youtube.com, type OLL (month day) e.g. OLL214 for February 14th. I commend parish staff, Art Gonzalez, and Noah Sandoval for their creative efforts to reach out to parishioners in this and many other ways.

COVID-19 VACCINES: The Covid-19 vaccines are now been made available, those who can and who would like to be vaccinated should endeavor to get it. Contact your health provider or your local county Health Department. I was able to receive the first dose of the vaccine recently with some of our staff. We need to do all we can to keep the church parish and the school open effectively, safely, and smoothly. Our God is good all the time. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we do for you.

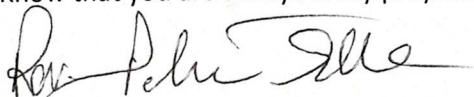
LENTEN CATECHESIS: During our Lenten days, we will be taking advantage of the technology we have in the midst of social distancing and self – isolation to learning more about our faith. This we can do through Zoom Conferencing. Please endeavor to join us. Invite your friends and family.



Forgiven explores the grace and healing offered through confession. This in-depth look at the Sacrament itself reveals the depth of God's Love and Mercy. This Lenten season please join us Tuesday nights after dinner from 7PM to 8:15PM from the comfort of your own home.

Please Contact Steve Sandoval at stevenhsandovaljr@gmail.com or 801-644-6085. or the Parish Office 989-366-5533. Our conferencing software will be Zoom, available free on Android, Apple, Mac, PC, or tablets. Need help? No worries, we can walk you through it. The login information will be provided at a later date.

Know that you are always in my prayers.


Fr. Peter