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To my Dear Parishioners:

Happy New Year! That phrase *can* tend to ring hollow as we approach the middle of January, yet it is still a wish that I have for each and every one of you. The Christmas decorations may have been taken down and put away for another year, but we are still a Christmas people who are called by our Baptism to proclaim the wondrous Gift that God gave to the world ~ His Son!!

While I've been reflecting on this past year, I had thoughts of generosity and good will. People have reached out to those who needed help. I've heard good stories of people helping elderly neighbours who did not want to expose themselves to crowds. Store workers who have been tirelessly filling food orders, and keeping grocery stores open. Factory workers who keep our economy going; doctors and nurses who have sacrificed their own health in order to keep our healthcare system operating. We just need to take a few moments to look around us to really see the goodness in others. I hope we have all played a part in making this pandemic less burdensome for others.

Before I go any further I'd like to personally thank those involved in decorating our church for Christmas. Thank you to the handful of elves that set up the trees, lights, window swags etc., also the indoor and the *new* life size outdoor Nativity Scenes. Special thanks to our Knights of Columbus for that and especially to Mrs. Sheila Adams for her talented painting handiwork! I was very pleased and many parishioners commented on it and I'm sure it was the talk of the town. The wonderful decorations really added to the atmosphere for the celebration of Christmas, a Christmas like no other.

We have all heard by now of the 2nd lockdown (state of emergency) order by our Premier Doug Ford from January 14th (for 28 days), i.e. the middle of February. If we all follow the “stay at home” order, I am sure and certain we will be able to fight the virus.

I humbly request all the seniors and the sick to *please stay at home* and participate in the Mass on TV. But for those who are healthy, if you are interested to attend a service, which is a short one, you can make a reservation by calling the parish office and booking a Mass. Weekend Masses are Saturday @ 4:00pm and Sunday's @ 9:00am & 11:00am, all at St. Joseph's. The latest provincial restrictions do not impact our current limit of 10 persons (including celebrant and those assisting with ministry) present inside a place of worship at any time. Or in case someone wants to receive only Holy Communion, I am very happy to distribute, anytime during the week, I only ask that you please call the office before coming, or you could attend any weekday Mass.

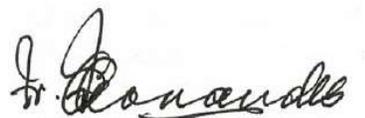
Even though there was the initial lockdown in early spring and again on Boxing Day, as a priest I continue to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass daily, and at every celebration, I have kept all my dear parishioners in my celebration, so also in my office of the readings. I have prayed for all in the nursing homes and all those who are sick.

I would like to make a kind request. If anyone is sick and in need of prayers or confession or anointing of the sick, please let me know. . . please don't hesitate to call the parish office.

I appreciate your continued support as 2021 is upon us. I'd also like to personally thank those who sent me Christmas cards, offered Masses and gave me lovely gifts; I do appreciate all your thoughtfulness! If you require any assistance in getting your offertory envelopes, signing up for pre-authorized giving (PAG) or to update your contact information, please call us at the parish or send an email.

So, once again I want to say a “*big thank you*” for your generous contributions to the church. Rest assured that you all are in my prayers and at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. May the Good Lord bless you all!

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Oswin Fernandes
Pastor