



## Further Reflections of the pastor 11.13.20

I know it has only been a few weeks since the distribution of the last "Reflections of the Pastor". Four weeks is a short time but in this peculiar year also a long time.

What is on my mind?

**First** is the 'downer' of being shut down again. March 18<sup>th</sup> all over again! We're in the 'red' zone again. No public Masses for 28 days. But we shall get through all this. You'll all still be able to see the inside of our beloved church and to join me, Fr. Con, and Fr. John at our daily 11 am streamed Masses. Sadly, we will not be able to see you! I pray that public Masses will be restored again in time for Christmas.

**Second** is SHARING GOD'S GIFTS. Given that we can have so few parishioners able to physically attend our Masses, not only are we experiencing a significant decrease in weekly donations, but especially donations to Sharing God's Gifts. And now with our current 'shutdown' the situation is worse. As you know Sharing God's Gifts supports vulnerable people and organizations in our Archdiocese and they desperately depend on our help. We began our campaign in January to attain our goal of \$64, 220.00. Currently we are at \$30,478.00.

Thank you to many who have kept our parish, school, and Archdiocese in mind through this trying time. But at this point it looks like we may have a huge debt to the Archdiocese beginning our new year in January, 2021. Please think of what you can do.

Possibilities?

- PayPal ([Donate to Sharing God's Gifts Now](#))
- Mail or drop envelopes in the parish mailbox at the office entrance at 255 Stafford?
- Preauthorized contributions (PAC) every two weeks for Sharing God's Gifts? (Our Knights of Columbus is still offering their 'deal' of matching PAC contributions through December!) Please check our parish website by [clicking here](#) for further information and a registration form.
- An extra Christmas Donation? Win the lotto Max?

**Third** is our usual parish AGM (Annual General Meeting). Every year we have held that meeting in November (usually just in time to weather our first blizzard!). As I mentioned in the October 'Reflections of the Pastor', the Covid context precludes the possibility of an 'in person' meeting this year. In lieu of an AGM I have invited those who usually report to provide it in writing this year (Finance, Maintenance, Parish Pastoral Council, School & School Board, Visioning). When those are gathered they will be published for you with the last year's annual financial statement on the website and on email.

It appears our Advent will be truly purple with penance. But let us trust and 'wait' for the Lord with hope in our hearts that God will continue to provide for us. Generations did exactly that, plodding in the dark till the light of Christ came into our world. Blest be God that this Light is constantly among us. Let us be that light for one another especially in today's Covid darkness.

**Blessings on everyone.**



*R. Frank Albright, S.J.*



St. Ignatius Parish