

January 10, 2021

Dear Parishioners:

**“THE SEASON OF GIVING IS COMING TO AN END, BUT THE NEED IS NOT.”**

I recall hearing this statement several times while watching television last year toward the conclusion of the Christmas Season. To be sure, there are many people in our country, and throughout the world, who are in special need right now due to the impact of the pandemic on them. The loss of their ordinary revenue has put some families in dire straits for the purchase of food, medical supplies, public utility services, rent or mortgage payments.

Thankfully, the celebration of Christmas brought joy to some people who received gifts from their loved ones. Many children were delighted with the presents left for them under their family Christmas tree by Santa.

A number of families expressed their sincerest words of gratitude for the assistance they received from us. The gift cards we gave to them allowed them to purchase items needed and wanted by their family members. They are so grateful to us for our acts of generosity to them at this time. *HOWEVER, yes, the season of giving is coming to an end, but the need is not!*

That is why during the course of the months ahead, we will have twelve opportunities to support the work of our Parish Outreach and the St. Vincent de Paul Society through special second collections. The food and other goods that you regularly bring to church for our parish pantry are concrete ways that you remember that for some the “need” continues.

These are some of the ways that we acknowledge that the need is always there and that we are committed to reach out to our neighbors and friends with generous hearts and helping hands.

All of this is done as an expression of our faith in Jesus and our commitment to live his call to “feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, to cloth the naked. . . .” Again, as Pope Francis reminds us if we want to know for sure if we are living out our Catholic faith we should just reflect of the “Works of Mercy.”

May the Lord bless each one of you for the good that you do as an expression of your faith!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. John". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.