



December 3, 2020

My Dear Parishioners:

Greetings to you today! I hope you are reasonably well these days with the challenges that we have in our lives and collectively as a people.

This Sunday December 6<sup>th</sup>, is the memorial of St. Nicholas, (Santa Claus). Since this date is on Sunday, the Second Sunday of Advent would take president. For people in many parts of the world, this is a day of celebrating and giving gifts. One would wake up in the morning finding their shoes outside their bedroom would have gifts stuffed in them. St. Nicholas is the patron saint of Russia along, with St. Andrew. I mention this, for this past Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>, was the feast of St. Andrew who is the patron saint of our diocese and who our cathedral in Victoria is named after. St. Andrew's is our mother church in the diocese, so Monday was a special day of celebration for the parish and all of us in the diocese.

We will find out this coming Monday if the closures of the churches will be lifted. Stay tuned to the news, for if we are open again there will be the usual mass schedule starting Tuesday night. Looking towards Christmas, there is space available in the hall if one is going to register. That is providing we will be open for the masses; as the COVID-19 situation is getting worse, not improving.

Recently 750 Operation Christmas Shoe boxes collected in our Oceanside area were sent to Calgary. Thank you to all who put together a box this year.

The other day, one of our long time parishioners Andrea Koelewyn passed away. She has been a resident at Stanford Place for the last few years. The family will plan a service sometime in the New Year.

The Oceanside Homelessness Ecumenical Advocacy Response Team Society, (OHEARTS) is having its Annual General Meeting (AGM) this coming Wednesday

## Church of the Ascension

887 Wembley Road • Parksville, B.C. • V9P 2E6

Tel.: 250-248-3747 • Fax: 250-248-2732 • Email: [ascensionparish@shaw.ca](mailto:ascensionparish@shaw.ca)

December 9<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00pm, via a Zoom meeting. I bring this up, for if you would like to be a member of the society...it would be great to see parishioners from Ascension. I would need your name, address, and email sent to me, so I can forward it on to Kathy Miller, the board chair to add your name to the list and link to the Zoom meeting next Wednesday. If you could email me at [ascensionpastor@shaw.ca](mailto:ascensionpastor@shaw.ca) Thank you.

Next week, Rosemary will be taking two days of vacation, Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. The office will be closed, Wednesday through Friday; Friday closure due to COVID-19.

Dave Walter, Parish Pastoral Finance Vice Chair, has provided the following comments...

"Parishioners of the Ascension, the Christmas Season is upon us, and 2020 is coming to an end. I have a financial update to November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

- Total Income       \$218,355.00
- Total Expense       \$208,774.00
- Operating Profit   \$ 9,581.00

We have been quite fortunate being able to have daily masses during the pandemic that has helped us with the generous contributions from you the Parishioners. We have also had some major expenditures, in the past month for the Insurance on the Church and rectory; And we also have to replace one of the HVAC units on the hall roof which was damaged in the power outage a while back. The Parish is still receiving the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) benefit from the Government which reduces the salary costs to us, totaling \$21,216.00.

I thank the Parishioners again for their generosity during these troubling times."

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Mike