



From the Pastor's Desk

While some may have already taken down and put away their Christmas lights and displays, the Church's Christmas season does not end until the evening of this Sunday, the **Feast of the Lord's Baptism**.

Tomorrow, the Church enters **Ordinary Time**, until March 2nd, when Lent begins on Ash Wednesday.

While Lent might seem to be far into the future, my Office Assistant has already begun to ask me for information regarding Lenten schedules. I said, "Delia, can't you let me get through Christmas before we start thinking about Lent and Easter?!"

Before looking forward to the New Year and putting away our Christmas decorations, I want to express my gratitude to our many volunteers and ministries who made the Christmas season so enjoyable.

I'd like to thank our **Parish Art and Environment Committee**, headed up by **Dorothy Ball and Pam Vleck**, with the assistance of **Pam and Julianna (Pam's daughter) Carlson, Barb Johnson, Tom and Alicia Mancini, Elvira Vodicka, Ted Zayner, and the Vleck family**.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas celebrations this year, from our church door openers to all who came to and participated in our Christmas liturgies and events.

Thank you, as well, to our many parishioners who contributed to our **Christmas collection**. We received about **\$25K this year**, which is much lower than past years but is a much-needed blessing in this time of diminished attendance, due to COVID. Thank you to all who gave so generously.

In speaking of **financial support**, I ask that you make a special effort during this time of declining Mass attendance to continue, or to resume, your contributions to support our parish as best you can, given your own current financial situation.

As you know, the parish continues to maintain its payroll along with the operating and maintenance needs of two campus facilities.

Presently, **our HVAC systems at the south campus Parish Center are operating at partial capacity**. Over the summer, these three units became inoperable. Given the excessive age of the units, replacement of the units was the most prudent decision for continued reliability and overall cost.

Given the \$150M cost of replacing all the units, only **the largest unit was replaced in October for \$80K**. This unit has the capacity to maintain sufficient heat to prevent damage to the water

pipes; however, since the building does not have use of the other units, it can be uncomfortable for users: feeling cold in the winter and warm in the summer. It also places a greater-than-normal workload on the one operational unit, which can result in more frequent, future repairs.

While more will be said about our financial situation in the future, **I want to emphasize the great and immediate need our parish has for your financial contributions.**

I would like to encourage everyone, who has not already done so, to make use of our **Give Central On-Line Giving Program**. This program allows the parish to receive your contribution even when you are unable to attend Mass at the parish.

Give Central allows a safe and convenient way to contribute to the parish. It is also a more accurate method for tracking your payments and it allows the parish to have a better sense of each week's collection amount.

To sign up, go to **the parish website at hgaparish.org** and click on the icon that says, **"DONATE NOW with Give Central."**

Look for the **"Sunday Collection"** icon and click on this. You will then be provided with a screen in which to enter your payment information. **Choose a frequency of "monthly" or "weekly"** to allow the system to make this payment each month or each week from your account.

Thank you for your support!

-Fr. Brian Kean