

Fr. Tom Manjaly, SAC

St. Vincent Pallotti Parish
201 North 76th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53213
414.453.5344



February, 2021

Beloved People of God,

The year 2020 is hard to describe. It was challenging in so many ways. The pandemic upended our lives in ways that would have been unimaginable one year ago. There were also social, political, health and economic crises. Many of us are exhausted and discouraged by the events of the past year. At this time, we truly need the gift of hope from our Lord.

As we begin the New Year, there are signs of hope. The amazing development of a vaccine to fight Covid-19 is truly one sign of hope. However, we should continue with caution, following all the safety protocol laid down by the CDC. The safety protocols that we follow at Mass will continue until such time as we are told that we are safe. Another major development is the inauguration of new leadership for our nation. I understand that we all have our political preferences but as Catholics we should be able to go beyond these and pray that the new administration will be able to heal wounds, foster unity, ensure prosperity and above all lead us according to the Gospel values.

A Glance at the Past

Looking back at our parish life during the last few months, I can say with confidence that we have done everything possible to bring parishioners back to worship although with restrictions. God has been very protective of us. I would like to reiterate that our gatherings for worship have not been a cause for any serious outbreak of the virus. Thanks to our strict implementation of the safety protocols and everyone's adherence to these.

A number of events have taken place here in the parish that I would like to highlight. First Holy Communion, and the sacrament of Confirmation were completed successfully. The Religious Education classes are going on both in person and virtual. We also celebrated the Volunteer's Appreciation Day. Let me once again express how highly I value your sharing of time and talent for the growth in our parish community. May God bless you all. We also had a restricted but solemn celebration of Christmas and the parish feast of our patron St. Vincent Pallotti. Congratulations to the two winners and to all the participants of the Pallotti Family Quiz. It is encouraging to see more people are showing interest in knowing this great Saint.

New Electronic Sign. There has been some delay in getting this project done due to legal hurdles and the pandemic situation. The good news is that these things are all sorted out and the new electronic sign, a long-cherished dream, is now a reality. Thanks to all the major and minor contributors without whom this dream would not have come true. As members of the St. Vincent Pallotti parish family we can all be proud of this accomplishment.

However, we still miss some of our community events that were integral part of our parish life: birthday socials, social outreach programs, potlucks, faith in prayer gatherings, children's Liturgy of the Word and in-person meetings of committees to name a few. I hope and pray that the days are not far from us when we will be able to bring back all these treasured moments of our parish life. There are some of you who are still unable to worship in the church due to health issues. I do miss all of you, but

I promise to pray for your good health that soon we will be able to welcome you back. Until then take care and stay healthy.

As for the St. Vincent Pallotti School, it has so far been a year of tough challenges. It has not been easy for the staff and faculty to prepare for both in person and virtual classes simultaneously. It has been particularly difficult to do the services in the lunch room. Our staff and faculty under the guidance of Jeff are doing a great job in these uncertain times.

Future Events

Lent and Easter. We are already in the season of Lent. Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, it is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebration of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, we replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Let us make every effort during this holy season, to attend regular Masses, go for confession, take part in the Friday Stations of the Cross and engage in acts of charity. This year holy week begins on March 28 and Easter falls on April 4.

Sacrament of Confirmation. This year our parish will host the Confirmation of candidates from St. Therese parish, Sacred Heart parish and St. Vincent Pallotti parish. Confirmation is on April 13 in our Church. Bishop James T. Schuerman will be the celebrant.

Live streaming of the Mass. We are seriously looking at the possibility of live streaming and recording the Sunday Mass in order to avail it to those who are unable to attend our Church in person for health reasons, especially during this Pandemic. I am sure it will be a reality very soon.

Parish Picnic. Once again, we are forced to postpone the date of our parish picnic from June. Now we have decided to have it on September 19 if the situation allows for a safe gathering.

It is with profound gratitude in my heart that I say a big thanks to all of you especially, our parish staff, pastoral and finance councils, different committees, and commissions who have walked an extra mile in fulfilling their responsibilities during these difficult times. I cannot sufficiently thank all the volunteers in various areas of our parish life who give selflessly of their time and energy for the growth of our parish. Thanks to all who have contributed and continue to support us financially with your generous giving. I appreciate the keen interest you all show in the life of the parish and the love and care I personally experience in our parish family. Let us stand united in love and prayer and hope that 2021 will be a year that slowly but surely will fulfill all our expectations for a normal life.

Wishing you a graceful Lenten season and the joy of the risen Lord.

God bless you all,

Fr. Manjaly



Fr. Thomas Manjaly, SAC