

Much, but not all, of the following content was also contained in a letter sent to our parishes' CPL participants:

Dear Parishioners,

I remember a year ago saying that 2019 had passed quickly. For many, 2020 cannot pass quickly enough. We are certainly thankful for the great commitment that has been shown to our extended Catholic family at Our Lady of Mercy and St. Brigid, in a year of unprecedented challenges. It has been a time that we have had to either be creative and flexible in the way that we preserve our faith, or let it go by the wayside altogether. As we transition into 2021—most likely with a subdued celebration—it is both a time of hope, as we prepare to have a new shepherd installed in our diocese, and a time of great concern at the parish level. Within the limits imposed and embraced due to the pandemic, we do our best to fortify our faith and invite others to this life of communion with Jesus Christ, while preserving the tremendous heritage of our communities.

We are especially grateful for the many sacrifices you have made to support our parishes—especially at a time that so many are struggling. With the Sunday and Holy Day Obligations being dispensed, and so many lives thrust into economic uncertainty, many have put their parish life on the back burner. Others have maintained, to the best of their ability, their religious routine with the help of the electronic media. To meet our weekly and monthly expenses, your generosity has been critical to providing a sustained income stream. Through much of the pandemic, we have struggled through the drop in income, as well as *new expenses* due to COVID-19 such as streaming and sanitizing. We can say that because of your kindness and the Federal PPP Loans, our two parishes weathered much of the storm better than many parishes in our local church. However, in recent weeks, in both of our parishes we are feeling the pinch more profoundly. The more we are able to pay our weekly and monthly bills from our collection, the less we will have to dip into the savings—which has been a lifeline in 2020—but will not last forever.

There are three main ways to support your parish financially:

- Electronic Fund Transfer,
- Online Giving by *WeShare* through our parish website (and its companion *TEXT-TO-GIVE*), or
- The traditional envelopes which many have continued using either by USPS or by dropping them off in

one of the three secure drop boxes in the Church or the box at the parish center entrance.

If you choose to contribute via an electronic fund transfer, we are required to have a yearly signed authorization form, please fill out the appropriate form (inserted in this bulletin) and return to the office.

You may wish to consider the secure and easy-to-use Online Giving by *WeShare*. This gives you great access and control in your giving, as well as the opportunity to target you donations to special projects that arise. In addition, our friends at LPI offer unprecedented customer support.

Thank you for the support concern that you have also shown toward our staff and the Mercedarian Community. Know that you are in our prayers. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Let us continue to pray for one another.

Yours in Our Lady of Mercy & St. Brigid,



Fr. Matthew H. Phelan, O.de M.

Pastor



THIS CHRISTMAS, GIVE YOUR GIFTS ONLINE

IT'S SAFE. IT'S SIMPLE. IT'S CONVENIENT.

Donate today using your debit card, credit card, checking, or savings account.

- 1 Visit your church website and click Give Online.
- 2 Set up your account.
- 3 Choose a payment option and customize your donation.

ONLINE GIVING
By WeShare

Contact our Customer Support Team at weshare@4lpi.com

OUR LADY OF MERCY **DONATE NOW** >

GIVE ONLINE
with WESHARE

< ST. BRIGID **DONATE NOW**

The Diocese is ordered by the bankruptcy court to publicize the following announcement:

UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re The Diocese of Buffalo N.Y.

Case No. 20-10322

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, On February 28, 2020, The Diocese of Buffalo N.Y., (“Diocese”) filed for protection under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code (the “Bankruptcy Code”).

The Bankruptcy Court has established August 14, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. (prevailing Eastern time) as the deadline to file proofs of claim against the Diocese (the “Bar Date”).

If you have a claim against the Diocese, including, without limitation, a claim related to sexual abuse committed by any person connected with the Diocese, you must file a claim on or before the Bar Date.

Please visit <https://case.stretto.com/dioceesofbuffalo> or call (855) 292-7696 for more information on how to file your proof of claim.

IF YOU DO NOT TIMELY FILE A PROOF OF CLAIM, YOU MAY FORFEIT YOUR RIGHT TO VOTE ON ANY PLAN OF REORGANIZATION AND TO SHARE IN ANY DISTRIBUTIONS TO CREDITORS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DIOCESE’S CHAPTER 11 CASE.

FORMED

PICK OF THE WEEK

December 20, 2020

WATCH

**CHRISTMAS IN ROME:
A CELEBRATION OF THE NATIVITY**

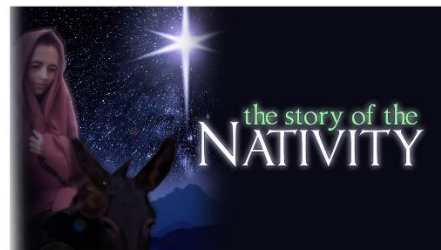
Nowhere celebrates the birth of the Savior like Rome. This Christmas, marvel at the Holy City’s festive celebration of the coming of the child Jesus in Bethlehem.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE NATIVITY: THE TRUTH OF CHRISTMAS

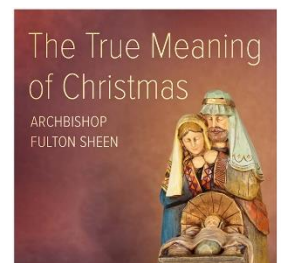
Christmas is so much more than a humdrum story we’ve heard since childhood. Join top scholars, speakers, and authors as they explain the gravity of Christ’s miraculous birth.



LISTEN

**THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS
BY FULTON SHEEN**

This presentation combines recordings of Fulton Sheen’s timeless reflections on the meaning of Christmas, mixed with Gregorian chant and seasonal music. It is sure to become a family favorite!



To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.