

DEAR PARISHIONERS OF SETON LAKE RIDGE

A very Merry and Blessed Christmas to you and all your loved ones! Once again, we are reminded this Christmas that the light of Christ has illuminated our world offering us the tremendous blessings of mercy, hope and love! We human beings are fascinating and beautiful creations of God. We are capable of heroic and incredible acts of love as is evident by so many who have sacrificed so much as a result of Covid-19. And while it is true that we are all *"treasured in the Lord's eyes"*, we are also wounded and go through many trials in life. Relationships can be challenging. Our current pandemic makes it clear that illness and even death strike at a moment's notice. Unemployment affects many, poverty exists, addictions develop, and many among us are hurting physically, emotionally and spiritually. Hope can seem a distant dream, and some may wonder if the difficulties in their lives can really be overcome. In His gracious love and mercy, God has provided His creation a reason for hope. He has sent us His Son, Jesus Christ, to become one of us so that we can become like Him. He has revealed His plan and deep desire for us to be with Him one day forever in heaven. Through Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit, God has promised that we would never be alone in our sorrows and struggles. Jesus came to earth to proclaim the love of the Father and to reveal that love by being willing to suffer and die in obedience to His Father's will; and then to be raised by Him on the third day. Jesus now journeys with us His disciples through His Church. This is the Good News (the Gospel), the GREAT NEWS that offers so much hope to a broken world.

There is so much suffering yes, but there is so much to be thankful for and so many reasons for hope. Case in point is an update on my niece that many of you have been praying for. **"Baby Schutt"** the second child of my younger sister and her husband, **Mary and Jeremy Schutt**, and she has several severe developmental disabilities. She was initially given a 1% chance of survival in the early months of pregnancy. We have all been praying for a miracle, particularly seeking the intercession of **Servant of God Frank Parater**. Now, there has been some very positive news as **"Baby Schutt's"** condition has improved significantly. She is not *"out of the woods yet"*, but if she goes into the third trimester in a few weeks, her chance of being born is near 100%. From 1-100 is pretty amazing. I thank everyone who are able to continue to join us in these prayer efforts. SOG, Frank Parater, pray for us! Our **new confessionals and niche chapels (Our Lady of Guadalupe and Divine Mercy)** are essentially complete (see attached photos). I invite you to stop by the church to take a look or join us for a

"Virtual Tour" of our church on Sunday, January 3rd at 3pm. We will also go *"behind the scenes"* of our worship experience here at Seton Lake Ridge and view the incredible Christmas decorations. Please see the parish website www.setonlakeridge.org for the livestream link. Please note that the church will be closed from 2:30-4:30pm that day.

We are so grateful to Diana Miller, Mike Timko, Renita Santos, Walter Purdy and all those who assisted them in decorating and beautifying our church; and to all those who donated to our Christmas Flower Memorial fund that made all this possible.

We are also so very grateful for those who continue to support our parish with such dedicated service and generous financial gifts, especially at this difficult time for everyone. If you haven't made a Christmas offertory donation, you may do so by simply clicking the link next to the livestream Mass, or by clicking the *"Donate"* button on the upper right-hand corner of the parish website. Thank you again for all your support!

On behalf of Fr. Dort, Deacon Warner and all of our staff we wish you, and all your loved ones, a very Merry Christmas and a grace-filled New Year. May God, through the Nativity of His only begotten Son, increase our faith, fill us with hope and surround us with His Love.

Christmas blessings, Fr. Brian Bashista, Pastor



New Confessionals



Divine Mercy Niche



Lady of Guadalupe Niche