

## A Note from the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

Many thanks to all those who contribute financially to our parish! I especially want to thank everyone who contributed to the Christmas collection! The collection some years is bigger than others but the numbers reported elsewhere in the bulletin attempt to explain that last year the Christmas collection (\$99,551.00) was larger than this year primarily because December 25th was a Sunday in 2016. This year, December 24th was the Sunday and Christmas was the Monday. Hence, the Christmas collection this year should be something of a combination of \$25,499.00 (4th Sunday) and \$83,499.00 (Christmas) in order to better compare it to last year. In any case, your generosity is fantastic! By the way, Christmas donations will continue to come in for a while, so if anyone wishes to make a Christmas donation, it will always help to bring up the total. Our collections of every type help keep the parish strong.

On another note, I think some people are a bit worried about Mass schedules. Monday evening Mass is a concern for some but the continuation of the Stone Church schedule is a greater concern for others. I constantly have to think of priestly coverage for Masses and everything else. Here is an example: Fr. Christian went to Nigeria for this month to see his family. The Archdiocese assured me they would be able to assign a priest to assist while he is away. It is already January 10th and no word yet. (I still have hope.) It isn't easy for large parishes to go long periods with only one or two priests. We all know there is a shortage of priests in our country so parishes have to adjust. Mass schedules may have to change. I can tell you this: I want to have at least one Sunday Mass celebrated in the Stone Church each week. The Summer schedule may have to become the permanent schedule. No decision has been made yet. Meanwhile, keep praying for vocations.

There are always many other things to think about. On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we should remember how every person, born and unborn, is precious in God's eyes and we are all equal. Let's keep striving and praying for peace and harmony in our world. May God help us in all things. Amen.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monsignor Giandurco". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.