

As we begin a new year...

2021 was again a challenging year for all of our Holy Mother and Child family as Covid19 continues to be ever present. Currently we are seeing the number of cases in our area going up, so now is not the time to be less careful. Keep in mind we are all our "Brother's Keeper".

Father Swain has graciously continued to offer our weekly Masses as our Interim Priest. Welcome to newly announced FR. Simon Udemgba as our parochial administrator, who we will share with St. Joseph's. Deacon Gary and Anna are helping administer our parish. The Parish Leadership Team diligently works to plan the path forward for Holy Mother and Child. There are many other individuals and groups that continue working "behind the scenes" to support both our parish and you, our parishioners.

Sadly, this past summer was the last time HMC will be having Mass at our church in Lake Luzerne. Unfortunately, the size of our parish and the expenses of maintaining the additional buildings has made it necessary for us to close and sell our beautiful Holy Infancy church. The Diocese has approved our plan. We are currently working to prepare the buildings and it is listed with a realtor. There is a for sale sign out front.

There is also a parish group working to incorporate many of the cherished religious items from Lake Luzerne into our Corinth Church buildings. Tough decisions will need to be made. They are continuing to look for more volunteers. Please pray for and support them in these efforts.

Many of our programs to serve the community persevered this year while adapting to Covid19 protocols:

- 1- Becky Robarge and Alex Ghent did their best to creatively provide religious education to our youth. They continue to be quite successful and are always looking for new ideas. First Communion and Confirmation classes are being held.
- 2-We participated in, and the distribution site for, the Community of Churches free food distribution. This supported many local families.
- 3-This summer we held a safe and successful Summer Bazaar.
- 4-We participated in the "trunk or treats" at the Methodist Church.
- 5- We participated in, and were the distribution point for, the Thanksgiving food basket distribution sponsored by the Community of Churches. Again many families were served.
- 6- We held a safe and very successful Christmas Bazaar.
- 7-We sponsor the Giving Tree to serving those in Corinth or Hadley-Luzerne schools.

We must always strive to move forward and that means change. As Individuals and as a church, we are not the same. Even with masks, we can still greet each other with our "smiling eyes" and a welcoming hello.

The Second Vatican Council was called 60 years ago. Some of us witnessed this in our youth and now would not want to give up these changes. As a reminder, here are some of those changes:

"Vatican II brought some major changes to the Roman church. Most obvious were changes in the Mass, which had been said in Latin, with priests facing away from the congregation, often speaking quietly (even mumbling). It was impersonal at best and, for most, not understandable.

After the council, the feel of the mass changed drastically. It now was to be conducted in the language of the people, and participation was encouraged in new ways, with new possibilities granted for music and singing, and women allowed into upfront roles as readers, lectors, and Eucharistic ministers, as well as altar servers. The sweeping reforms also included no longer forbidding Catholic attendance at Protestant services or reading from a Protestant Bible."