



Where We've Been And Where We're Going

Dear Parishioners, as we begin a new year at Holy Mother and Child Parish, we would like to take a few moments to reflect upon our journey through 2020....

A year ago, as we made plans for the year, we knew Father Swain would retire in September and that would result in some changes at HMC. However, we knew nothing of Covid-19, and the unprecedented changes **that** would require of us.

Father Swain did retire as planned and we were fortunate that, he was asked, and accepted the position of Interim Priest. We were also fortunate to have Deacon Gary Picher become our Interim Administrator. In addition, we also now have an active Parish Leadership Team that is responsible for maintaining HMC as a vibrant and thriving parish.

In March, the first cases of Covid-19 began to appear in our area. By the end of the month our schools, businesses, and churches were closed. Holy Mother and Child, with the efforts of many volunteers, was able to safely start offering Mass in early July. Initially our services were held in the Parish Center; CDC and Diocesan guidelines were followed closely- six foot social distancing, screening forms, and contact forms kept, facemasks worn at all times, and no singing. Sanitizing of our worship space was, and continues to be done, after every service.



In August we were able to add our Saturday Mass back into the church proper and, thanks to a generous donation; we are also able to broadcast Mass into the Parish Center to safely accommodate more parishioners. As an important part of our reopening, we invested in necessary infrastructure which enabled us to Zoom Mass every Sunday to those who wished to join us remotely. We continue to practice all safety standards, doing our best to insure that our parishioners can safely participate in Mass.



At Thanksgiving and again at Christmas, as part of the Community of Churches, we able to help feed many of those struggling in our community during this time. HMC parishioners played a vital role by contributing to and helping distribute these food baskets. The parishioners, the St Nicholas Fund and the Bethany Guild all contributed coats and mittens, which were distributed to our local schools, keeping the children in our community warm this winter. Holy Mother and Child parishioners continue to help staff the Maxfield Community Food Pantry. As we begin a New Year, we are working on even more ideas which will enable us to continue supporting our community during this challenging time.



We would like to thank all the volunteers that have stepped forward to make it possible for Holy Mother and Child to welcome you to our services. Since the list would be quite long and there is a risk of missing someone, below we have a list of many individual/groups that supported Holy Mother and Child.

We would like to thank:

Father Swain and Deacon Gary

Our office staff

Our Trustees

Our reopening committee

Our Parish Leadership Team

Our Pastoral Council

Our Maintenance Committee

Our Religious Education Staff

Our Finance Committee

Our church decorating committee

Our ushers

Our sanitizers

Our Zoom Team

Our lectors

Our counting teams

Our Prayer and Worship Committee

And You, our parishioners.

Happy New Year

Mike Goodhart, Pastoral Council Chair

With our faith in Jesus, we pray each day for the end of this pandemic and for everyone in our community to be fed both bodily and spiritually.

