

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH

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December 31, 2022

Vigil, Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God

RE: CHRISTMAS SEASON GREETINGS & UPDATES

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

God's Peace and Love!

Merry Christmas, Happy Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God, and Happy 2023!

I join you in thanking God for His Love & Mercy and all the blessings He has given us in 2022. We celebrated many Advent events together, culminating with our Christmas Masses last December 25!

Unfortunately, last December 26, Monday, I tested positive for COVID-19. Towards evening, symptoms progressed from simple runny nose to 105F fever, chills, cough, fatigue, and body aches. It was like this until Thursday. Last Friday, I could not smell my breakfast anymore. Today, December 31, things improved: no more fever, I cough less, and I am comfortable enough to type this message for you. As you already know, this is my second infection. The difference now is I did not experience a painful sore throat.

I am sorry I will not be with you to celebrate this weekend, December 31 and January 1, the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. I'll stay in isolation until January 6 and will test again. Heather has invited some of my brother priests to preside at the Holy Masses.


Thank you so much for all the Christmas cards, beautiful messages, gifts, and food you gave me! I appreciate all of them! I was able to send some cards to many of you before December 24. However, with my covid infection, sending you this e-letter is safer than sending you my handwritten card. Thank you so much for all the best wishes! You are all very kind! Several of you asked if I will still visit my mother on January 2. I am still hoping I can visit her when I recover. I rebooked my flight to January 15. I am hoping for my full recovery by then. Otherwise, the trip is canceled until things get better.

Heather informed me that a number of our parishioners had been infected with COVID-19 too. We pray for their healing and quick recovery. Please take care of yourselves. When attending our Holy Masses, a face mask is available at the main door of our church if you need one.

You must have learned about the passing of our Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI. Let us pray for his eternal rest. We are forever grateful to God for his upholding our faith and sacred traditions.

Thank you all for your continued support. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Through our Blessed Mother Mary's motherly intercession, I wish you all the best in 2023!

Yours in Christ,


Fr. Joey R. Buena
Pastor