

# FROM THE PASTOR...

March 13, 2022

I almost hesitate to give a parking lot update, but I recently had a meeting with our construction company (Ward), the engineer, the landscape architect, and Archdiocesan Project Managers, and it seems we can begin construction on the parking lot! You should notice construction fencing around the lot any day now! I will not bore you with all the details, but we have the required permits, there is a plan for the drainage and utilities, landscaping, lighting, etc. The lot will be beautiful, and provide us with our own needed parking of 32 stalls (two of which will be handicapped).

For those concerned about drainage, the parking lot surface will be about twelve inches below the current grade. For those curious, the plan is to have water flow into our own drainage system and not run off into the neighbors, street, or alley. Just to be aware, the sidewalks on McVicker and Ardmore will be closed during construction which will take about ten weeks, so I am told, we can hope to have it done by the summer.

A call out for help! In terms of caring for our parish home we are looking for some volunteers to help with something of a “maintenance ministry” that might include painting, minor repairs, watering the landscaping in the future parking lot area, etc... We are asking for something similar in terms of periodic church dusting to help keep the Lord’s house presentable and show Jesus that we love Him and want our place of prayer and worship to be kept up. The parish and school are our common home, taking care of the grounds and the church are simple but meaningful ways of showing our love for the Lord and each other. Please contact Lisa Keeney if you are interested to learn more about either volunteer opportunity at: [lkeeney@archchicago.org](mailto:lkeeney@archchicago.org).

On the world news side, the bishops and Holy Father have rightly asked that we pray for an end to the war in Ukraine, and for the refugees who have fled the devastation to neighboring countries. The Lord hears our prayers, but we can also support the people of Ukraine through our generosity which supports people with basic shelter, hygiene, food, transport, counseling, and more. The Ash Wednesday collection this year is going to support families in and fleeing from Ukraine. We raised over \$5,300 for them, but you can still donate online through CRS or the Archdiocese.

Ordinarily, the Ash Wednesday collection would go to support our local poor through the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Lent is especially a time to concretely help those in need so please be generous through the poor box which goes to the SVDP. 100% of those donations goes to help people in need within the parish boundaries. If you would like to join, please contact Conference President Dave McNaughton – [davidmcnaughton3@gmail.com](mailto:davidmcnaughton3@gmail.com).

This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent, hopefully you’ve been able to persevere in some meaningful sacrifices, almsgiving, and also time for prayer. In today’s Gospel, God the Father spoke of Jesus saying, **“This is My beloved Son, listen to Him.”** Listen to Him, as the saying goes, this is easy to learn but takes a lifetime to master. There are so many helpful Lenten devotional guides online and even in the vestibule for you to use so that Christ can speak to us every day. We can also pray or listen along to the scripture readings for the day. There are so many means to help us grow closer to the Lord. Can we persevere in taking time this Lent to **“Listen to Him?”**

God bless,

Fr. Mike

