



A Note from our Pastor:



Dear NAM parishioners,
We are in the wonderful season of Advent, making straight a pathway for the Lord. We hear from John the Baptist, the precursor to Jesus, who was so humble he said "I am not fit to untie the strap of the sandal on his feet." We can imitate his humility and ascetic life and prepare our hearts for the Messiah.

We had our first Covid-19 death in the parish (to my knowledge) when 95 year old Margaret Cerra died after Thanksgiving. After the passing of her husband John in 2008, she faithfully attended Mass at NAM and sat in the back pew for ease of access into her 90's. Four years ago she moved to the Legacy on Fremont where she passed and went to her Eternal reward. She was a humble lady, who supported NAM with the "widow's mite." May she Rest in Peace.

One aspect of our faith, which can be humbling, is going to the Sacrament of Confession. I want to remind you of the power in this Sacrament to help reform our life and follow Jesus more closely. With three priests, we are able to add another Mass during Advent with a third time (Mon-Thurs at 5:15 p.m.) and the additional confession times that are listed on the Advent schedule. We hope you can come as a family or individually to receive God's mercy.

We are preparing as best we can for the Christmas Masses at NAM. The 3:00 p.m. Mass in the Church will be livestreamed for those who choose to watch at home. Our goal with the schedule is to have enough options to allow for a good number of people to attend in Church while keeping from getting crowded so as to maintain social distance. Masks are required at some and encouraged always. Our welcome/ security will direct the flow of traffic to either the Church or gym.

I just completed a book, thanks to Fr. Fleck, called The Shadow of His Wings, the true story of Fr. Goldmann, O. F. M. He was born in Germany in 1916 and wanted to be a missionary and priest. He was a tall and tough kid who had his share of fist fights. Growing up in Catholic Youth Camps, he went to the seminary with the Franciscans in Germany. This was interrupted when he got enlisted into Hitler's Nazi Wehrmacht and then promoted to the SS division. All the while, his faith was most precious and uncompromising as he always sought out Holy Mass, prayer and longed to study Theology to become a priest. In the War, he cared for the German soldiers and never killed anyone. He would risk his life as Red Cross and eventually was able to bring Holy Communion to injured and dying soldiers in the field of battle. A religious Sister prayed for him daily from his young age to become a priest and prophesied in 1943 that he would go to Lourdes and then meet the Pope who would grant him permission to be ordained early. This indeed happened and so he was granted by Pope Pius XII to be ordained in June 1944, even without completing his studies. Now he could hear confessions and offer Mass for the soldiers. After the War, he went on to be a missionary.

I enjoy reading Holocaust literature because it is "recent history" that is filled with courage, suffering, faith and adventure. People like Fr. Goldmann are heroes to me. During this pandemic, there are many unsung heroes who are making sacrifices, suffering and living the faith courageously. May God bless us as we prepare the way for the Lord's coming at Christmas.

Father Brian Connor

Family, Faith, Future

Building Campaign Update

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|------------------------------|-------------|
| Campaign Goal | \$4,500,000 |
| Pledged to Date* | \$4,489,515 |
| Percentage of Goal | 99.8% |
| Cash Received to Date | \$4,258,147 |
| Total Families | 1,418 |
| Total Gifts to Date* | 721 |
| Average Gift | \$6,227 |

*Note: We have reduced our "pledged to date" by \$278,283 (77 write-offs & 10 reductions) for those families who have moved out of the parish and/or reduced their original pledge.

Charitable contributions to the parish must be given *by Thursday, December 31st* to be included on your 2020 Stewardship records. Your 2020 End of Year Contributions Report will be included in the **January 4th parish mailing. Please retain this for tax purposes.** Thank you for your support of North American Martyrs Parish! Please call Connie at 402-476-8088 #6 if you have any questions.

**The Solemnity of Mary
Mother of God
Holy Day Masses**

Thursday, December 31st
5:30 pm
Friday, January 1st
7:00 am
9:00 am
7:00 pm



WELCOME to our new parishioners who registered in the months of November: **Paul & Channing Stellato, Morgan Rolfes, Ruben Aguayo and Bryan Colmenero.** *We hope you feel at home in our parish!*



POINSETTIAS to be placed around the altar at Christmas can be ordered in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$12 per plant. Please drop your donation and this filled out form in the collection basket or at the Parish Office. Deadline is **Friday, December 18th.**

Donated in memory of _____

Donated by _____