

St. Michael the Archangel Church

310 Pulaski Street, Bridgeport, CT 06608



Bridgeport, Jan 17, 2020

Omnia ad maiorem Dei gloriam (Everything for the Greater Glory of God)

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The past year 2019 was a special time for us. This is the 120th anniversary of our parish. Over the past 12 months, we tried to entrust everything to the Mother of God, asking through Her intercession for God's blessing and grace. We would like to thank God for all the good we received.

It's been a year since my official installation as a pastor in our parish. What is the year in the face of eternity? And yet I look at the past 12 months as a blessed time, full of challenges, tasks and important events. We are constantly learning the responsibility for our parish. It is a dynamic community, full of good ideas and initiatives, and above all prayers and meetings with God. Thank you for this, but I am also asking you to pray and adore God as much as possible. This is the heart of our parish, the heart of every Christian community.

Of course, some worries and problems arose last year, which, however, with God's help and our parishioners, were overcome and turned into good. Every home has its own difficulties, just like every church community has to face difficult situations. We learn to overcome difficulties every day, trust in God's Mercy and the protection of the Mother of God even more. As always, I am asking you, dear parishioners, to search for what unites us, for looking at what is beautiful and good in man, for building together our parish family. Only in this way will God's grace build a living Church in our hearts.

Last year, we experienced 12 entrustments to the Mother of God, numerous and wonderful parish initiatives, meetings, services, liturgies and prayers. Eleven children received the sacrament of baptism, eighteen children received the First Communion, two couples said the sacramental "yes", and twenty-four parishioners left our community for eternity.

We have carried out a number of much-needed investments in our church and parish buildings. I will note here the installation of a new projector, heating regulation and reconstruction of lights in the altar, together with the renovation of the altar figures. The school community and groups started painting the convent building (school). Installation of our own votive candles in the church was certainly an important step. The largest project that we were able to carry out in 2019 was the renovation of the upper and middle church windows. Thanks to the generosity of the benefactors, we received the jubilee chapel in the Franciscan garden, a new driveway in front of the friary, the banner of St. Michael the Archangel, altar furniture, and we also renovated several rooms in our friary, including a renovated chapel for religious. 119 families supported our parish in the "We stand with Christ" campaign and we collected a total of \$43,030.00, which is 95.6% of our annual parish goal. Thank you for all your sacrifice and help, especially for prayer, kindness and good words.

I wish with all my heart God's generous blessing in the New Year,

Your Pastor, Fr. Norbert M. Siwiński