

Financial Thoughts  
May 11, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

After a few days of not writing, I am writing to give you an update on how things are going for us as a parish. First of all, Fr. Harry and I are well. We continue to try to figure out ways to share faith, hope and love with you in a world that is more virtual than real. Harry has taken time each week to check on his dad, who is doing well. We were able to share the Feast of St. Louise with the Daughters through a live stream Mass on Saturday, May 9, the Feast of St. Louise, their foundress. We were able to offer a virtual Mother's Day Blessing at the end of Mass, but unfortunately, we were not able to continue the wine give away tradition, hopefully next year we will return to our tradition.

We held a Zoom meeting with our Finance, Pastoral Council and Lay Corporators to talk about getting ready for reopening, when we are given the call to re-open. We talked about our finances, which have been good for us, thanks to all of you. I told you about the past week's offertory collections from Palm Sunday through Mercy Sunday, in these last two weeks, we have held on. Last week the parish collected \$4,556 dollars and another \$2,000 in online giving. This past weekend's collection, for Mother's Day, the collection amount was \$6,777. and another \$2,000 in online giving. We continue to pay our bills and with other costs to the parish being waived at this time, we are in good shape. Again, that is thanks to all of you and your ongoing generosity.

There is one expense that we will incur at this time that is unexpected, but we believe that it can serve our church well going into the future. We are going to spend money on a good camera for the church. We will continue to live stream Masses on Sundays as a means of serving our parishioners, especially our shut-ins, but live streaming can be a tool that we can use for further education for all our people. We have formed a Committee to investigate the ways of continuing our outreach to the parish. We don't want our people at home but in the church with us.

When that happens there will be changes. When we know what they will be, we will immediately let you know.

We are blessed by your generosity and have a question for you. How are you doing? Do you have any needs that your parish can do for you at this time? Many of you may now be in bad straits and need help. Please let us know what we can do for you. You have done much for us in the house and we are grateful.

For now we continue to wait. We hope it will not be too much longer. But we are better safe than sorry. Since this shutdown began, I have buried 5 of our people. I would hope to keep that number at that level. We will get back to being a real church as opposed to virtual church. Have patience. Remember that St. Paul saw it as the first attribute of love.

In St. Vincent,

Fr. Marty