

From the
Pastor's
Desk



January 24, 2021

Dear Parishioners:

I trust that you had a wonderful Christmas and have entered 2021 with optimism and hope. Yes, with the start of the distribution of the Covid-19 vaccines we are hopeful that we will begin to see a dramatic decline in coronavirus cases here and throughout the world. Please get the vaccine when it becomes available and continue using a facemask, washing your hands and keeping an appropriate social distancing when in public.

Back in October I sent out a mailing to all of our registered families initiating a ***“Financial Recovery Campaign”*** requesting:

- 1) A **one-time financial gift to the parish**, especially, if you haven't been able to send in your regular donations in support of St. James since last March,
- 2) You **consider raising your present level of support to St. James Church** and
- 3) You **begin to give your parish support online** instead of using our envelope system or placing cash or a check in the collection basket. Online Giving is easy to set up for a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly contribution.

Our Finance Committee determined that if the financial support continued at the present level, we were forecasting a deficit of \$180,000 in our budget, which runs from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021. This would have a negative impact on the important ministries and services that we are able to provide to you, other parishioners, and those who come to us in special need.

We were recently notified that the \$109,000 PPP Loan that we applied for in the early spring was transformed into a grant. Had that loan not been forgiven we would have had to pay it back, which would mean that our actual deficit would be \$289,000 instead of the \$180,000 deficit forecasted for the present fiscal year.

Of the 2,495 letters which were mailed out this past October 286 families have already responded. We received \$60,000 in one-time recovery gifts, 17 committed to raising their support to the parish and 3 made the commitment to begin to give on-line. I hope that you and others will make the decision to give on-line as well.

I am writing you at this time because I didn't receive a response from you with my first letter. Perhaps, you acted on this request but did not return the commitment card. Or, maybe, you have been mulling this over concerned about the personal financial impact this would have on you. I am reaching out to you at this time to respectfully request that you consider participating in our ***“Financial Recovery Campaign”*** by returning the enclosed card with the type and level of support you can provide.

I sincerely say, “Thank you.” May God bless you for being an important member of St. James Parish Family.

Respectfully yours in Christ,