

May 4, 2020

Dear Parishioner,

As we continue to celebrate the joy of the Easter Season and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord, I pray that this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and healthy. Remember, our church is open every day from 7:30 AM through 6 PM. If you are able, we invite you to try and stop by for a peaceful visit before the Blessed Sacrament, light a candle or else to sit by our outdoor crucifix and flower bed.

During these stressful times, it would be natural for us all to feel some emotional, physical or even spiritual strain. You are not alone in having these feelings. In order to help us stay connected, while *sheltering at home*, we encourage you to join us for our online Sunday and Daily Masses, daily Rosary, Stations of the Cross, and most recently, the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Also check out some of the other religious sites we keep adding to our web page every day. Please try your best to keep up with your personal prayers and devotional practices. We have been doing our best to keep our parish web site ([www.StAedan.org](http://www.StAedan.org)) current and to email my periodic *Flocknote* letters. Thanks for taking the time to download and read these letters. They are my way of keeping in touch with you. If you know anybody who is not receiving them, please send us their email address at [StAedansit@optonline.net](mailto:StAedansit@optonline.net) and we'll add them to our emailing list.

I am sending out this letter in order to respectfully request your ongoing financial support for our parish if you are fortunate enough to be in a position to do so during these trying times. Due to the pandemic and lack of office staff, we have not been able to publish a weekly bulletin and financial report, so I am using this letter to advise you of our parish's current offertory income.

As we are all painfully aware some, perhaps many, of our parishioners are currently experiencing the burden of unemployment and other financial setbacks. This has seriously stressed their finances. Understandably, they are currently unable to share their limited resources with the church. I pray that their circumstances soon change for the better. Our beautiful parish has also been financially challenged during this pandemic and will continue to be challenged in the weeks and months ahead.

During normal times, each of our past seven Sunday collections would have averaged \$9,600.00 for an income of \$67,200. Our usual annual Easter Collection, which we rely on to cover so many of our regular expenses, averages \$35,000.00. So, in the past seven weeks we *should have* deposited \$102,200.00 in the bank. However, what we actually deposited was \$55,160.00 or 53.9% of our anticipated income. That we received this much income was only due to the financial sacrifices made by a little over 185 of our households. Additionally, we would like to thank those of you who have been keeping up with your **Renew & Rebuild** payments. Our last big capital project, the replacement of our parish driveways, will soon be upon us and we are really counting on your pledges to cover this anticipated expense. An important "thank you" as well to those who have been sending in

some monetary contributions and/or bags of food for our parish SVDP food pantry. Our clients are still with us and some are in even greater need.

May I request, that the next time you visit our parish web site ( [StAedan.org](http://StAedan.org) ), you look into joining the increasingly popular giving program [WE SHARE](#). It's a "no muss – no fuss" way of giving. You may structure your account in whatever way is most convenient for you. It's a win-win for you and our parish. Please join. Also, current members PLEASE be sure your **We Share** credit/debit card information is current or else the company will not be able to send us your designated contribution.

Finally, I would like you to know that you are remembered in all of our daily prayers and masses. I ask that you please also pray for me, Fr. Ivan and Deacon Jim and all of your fellow parishioners. Now, in the words of the Old Testament blessing, which I often use at the conclusion of my Sunday Masses, ***"May the Lord bless you and keep you. May He let His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with kindness and grant you His peace."*** Saint Aedan pray for us!

Prayerfully in Christ,

Msgr. Emmet Nevin, Pastor