

Saint Matthias Parish

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9 November 2021

Dear friends,

It's hard to believe we are almost two years into the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, we have all experienced great changes and challenges in our lives.

St. Matthias Parish has also had challenges throughout these months. *Through your generous donations and the PPP (Payroll Protection Program)*, St. Matthias Parish was able to maintain salaries and monthly expenses. *Thank you so much!* The challenge remains the ability to keep up with our monthly expenses especially in light of limited Offertory contributions.

Although the pandemic lingers on, our pastoral staff is beginning the *renewal of parish life*. Slowly we are seeing more people return to weekend masses. Faith Formation sessions have begun in-person. We have a new Music and Liturgical Ministries Director, Jay Maenhout, who brings with him a youthful zeal and a dedication to strengthen our liturgical celebrations.

One of the key components to parish renewal will be the success of our **2022 Grand Annual Collection** campaign. As you know, our Grand Annual Collection is crucial in fulfilling our fiscal responsibilities, with *all donations going directly into our operating budget*.

Last year we exceeded our \$70,000 dollar goal, raising a total of \$73,152. This was an amazing achievement considering we were in the heart of the pandemic. **This year we have set a goal of \$75,00.00 dollars.**

I encourage each parishioner to give what their budget allows. Please know that every gift, no matter the size, will go a long way in supporting the many works of our parish.

All the necessary donation information is contained on the enclosed card and can also be found on our webpage - stmattpar.org. You may donate by cash, check, or through our online payment system, WeShare. To donate through WeShare, please visit the parish webpage (stmattpar.org) and click on the "Give Online" button. Feel free to call the parish office for any assistance you need in setting up payments.

Thank you for your incredible generosity during this most challenging time. Let us pray for one another and especially for those who are still experiencing the burdens of the pandemic. May the Holy Spirit sustain us, comfort us, and lead us ever onward as disciples of Christ.

In Christ's peace,



Reverend Francis P. O'Brien, Pastor