



June 26, 2020

COVID-19 Impact Update

Dear St. Elizabeth's Family,

During the last three months our parish, like the rest of our community, has been working to meet the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. As we continue to work toward building up the Kingdom of God in our community, we wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some of the ways the pandemic has affected our parish and the ways in which we are continuing to further our mission.

Since the Stay-home order was implemented in March, our total collections (including online giving, mailed-in or dropped-off donations, and the Sunday collections) have declined by over \$85,000 from the level we would have projected based on collections in previous years. We have implemented cost saving measures wherever possible, attempting to economize on utilities and other supplies, and we have also postponed or scaled back planned purchases until our financial picture returns to a more normal level.

During the last few months, however, we have also had some unavoidable additional expenses. These include necessary repairs to the air conditioning system, the removal of a colony of bees that had taken up residence on the side of the church, and repairs to the church and chapel to prevent leaks. In order to meet the demands placed on us by the pandemic, we have also incurred additional expenses to purchase cameras and improve our internet connection for the livestreaming of Sunday Masses, and have also needed to procure hand sanitizer, masks, gloves, disinfectant, and cleaning cloths to have readily available in all areas of the parish.

As you know, the parish fiesta in September is our largest and only fundraiser every year. In anticipation of kicking off this year's Fiesta, we purchased a 2020 Toyota RAV4 for the raffle. Because of the Covid-19 restrictions, and the low attendance at the Masses, we foresee a significant difficulty in selling a sufficient number of tickets to make the raffle profitable, and have decided that it is not in the best interest of the parish to move forward with the raffle of the car. We will instead place the car up for auction through an independent auctioneer. Once confirmed, we will share the auction information with you. Because of the pandemic, it will also not be possible to hold the annual fiesta in the normal way, but we are working on plans for an alternate format involving virtual and distance elements. We look forward to sharing those plans with you soon.

Because of the economic impact of the pandemic on our parish, several repair and maintenance issues have had to be placed on hold. These include: additional lighting in the parking lot and around the campus, lifting the four HVAC units from the ground that surround the church, and installing French drains around those HVAC units. If we do not see a rebound in collections within the next few months, more austerity measures will likely have to follow.

None of these losses in funding will affect our commitment to serve the needs of our parishioners and our community, and we wanted to take this opportunity to communicate some of the good things that are happening during this time:

Our business office is open during regular hours, Monday through Friday. We are celebrating Mass on our regular pre-Covid schedule, and Confessions continue to be offered three times a week in the church. The children and adults who were preparing to be baptized at Easter had to postpone their reception of the sacraments due to the pandemic, but, in the last month, these celebrations have finally been able to occur, and we are very pleased to have welcomed 34 new brothers and sisters in Christ through baptism. We have also been celebrating first communions throughout the month of June, and, by the end of the month, 151 children will have received their first communion. We continue to provide services for Baptism classes and Baptisms, weddings and funerals, visits to the sick, and pastoral counseling. By God's grace, we are here for you.

We are thankful for the support we have received in the past three months. Many of you have been generously contributing to the parish electronically, by mailing in or dropping off envelopes, or through the collection basket. On behalf of the staff and the whole parish community: thank you! We know that many of you are dealing with your own financial challenges due to the coronavirus situation. If you are able to continue supporting St. Elizabeth's during this difficult time, there is information below on the various ways to give. No gift is too small, and every gift helps us to continue with our mission.

As we continue to navigate these difficult times as a parish family, above all, we must put our trust in God, who always cares for us, and who never abandons His people. We ask you all for your prayers for our community. May God, through the intercession of St. Elizabeth, continue to pour out His abundant blessing upon our parish.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. 
Rev. Juan Carlos Lopez
Pastor

Rev. 
Rev. Douglas Jeffers
Parochial Vicar

WAYS TO GIVE



Online Giving

bit.ly/stelizabethgiving



Mail

1520 N. Railroad Ave.



Drop Off

outside Parish Offices

Have questions? We are here to help. Email us at info@stelizabethltpf.org