



*St. Nicholas-Holy Family Churches*

Box 40

Miller City, Ohio 45864

Office: (419) 876-3481



15 April 2020

Wednesday of the Octave of Easter

Dear Parishioners of Holy Family and St. Nicholas,

I am sure you share with me the sense of unbelief that the novel COVID-19 pandemic has had such a strong hold on our daily lives, even our spiritual lives as well. I hope that you are taking advantage of our live stream broadcasts during this time as a way to stay “virtually” connected to our parishes. Likewise, I hope you are taking time daily to offer your prayers to the God of all creation.

I am writing you today about our parish stewardship and the need, given the fact that we have not been able to gather in our parish churches for Sunday Masses well over a month now, to explore creative ways to facilitate your sacrificial giving to our parishes. Some of our members have been very kind in forwarding to us a weekly contribution in the mail. God bless you for keeping your parish in mind. As our daily operational expenses continue without a weekly collection to draw from to make invoice payments, I feel as pastor the time has arrived to consider an alternate way of financial giving.

You may recall that in the fall season of 2019 we inaugurated a mailed envelope service to registered households. To date, that new system seems to be working well. At the time we began that service, discussion was already underway with our combined Pastoral Council and Finance Council about the possibility of using online giving for our weekly contributions for parishioners wanting to use such a service. The consensus of both advisory groups was most positive and supportive of the idea. It was my personal desire to wait before offering online giving to our registered households until we successfully implemented the mailed envelope system. I believe the COVID-19 pandemic is prompting us to implement an online service for parishioners who wish to use this option for their sacrificial giving to our parishes. Recent consensus expressed online from both our Pastoral and Finance Councils at this point in time given our unique circumstance is to move forward now. This optional service will be up and running as of today, Wednesday, April 15, 2020.

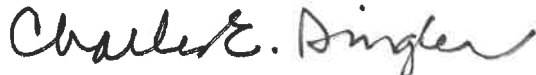
No one is being forced to use online giving. It is one option available to those who wish to use it for their financial support of our parishes. We will also continue to use the mailed envelope system for those wanting to do so. Connecting to online giving is quite easy. Simply go to the Holy Family St.

Nicholas parish website <https://stnicholasholyfamily.org> and click the icon on the top bar "Online Giving". There you will see the designated parish name on the left. Click on the parish where you wish to designate your online contribution. Follow the instructions to make the successful transaction.

The online direct depositing system used by our parishes is administrated by Our Sunday Visitor (OSV), the Catholic company overseeing the printing and mailing of our weekly envelopes. They facilitate the deposit of your contribution directly to our local parish bank accounts. The system is secure and confidential.

While change and alternate ways of doing things seem to be part of our lives more significantly in recent time, I am confident that online giving as an option will help to maintain our healthy fiscal responsibilities. Many parishes have provided this option for their congregational sacrificial giving for many years. I believe our time has come to provide it as well. If you have any questions concerning online giving, please feel free to call the Parish Office at 419-876-3481. Hoping you are staying well and praying hard. The Risen Lord is our hope and guide through our challenges these days.

With you prayerfully,



Rev. Msgr. Charles E. Singler  
Pastor