

April 3, 2020

Dear Parish Family,

I write to you today during these difficult times to assure you of my thoughts and prayers for you, your families, and your intentions. This unprecedented time is difficult not only for the people of God but also for us as priests and shepherds, whose hearts long to be among their people. I am most grateful to have the technology to be able to livestream our Sunday Mass, but this really is only an imperfect solution to the gathering of the parish community in person to celebrate and participate in Jesus' perfect sacrifice; in some ways I believe our Lord is asking us during this time to truly rediscover, long for, and love the Mass and His true presence in the Eucharist.

I also write to ask your assistance in continuing to financially support our parish community through these days. As you know, our parish depends on its weekly offertory in order to be able to sustain itself and to meet its financial obligations which ensure the salaries of its employees and the payment of its various accounts which we must meet to continue operations. Although we are trying to be frugal during these days, we also need to be conscious of our fiscal responsibilities as a parish family.

I have been humbled by how many of you have already begun sending in your weekly offertory and have continued to make this sacrifice. Some of you have been dropping off your offertory envelopes in the mail slot at the parish office in person, mailing them, or have been utilizing the bill pay feature from your own financial institution to have them send us a weekly check. We have also seen an increase in the use of our parish website's online giving feature.

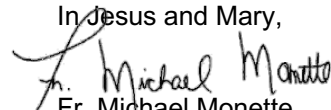
It is with regard to this last option that I write to you today and ask you to truly consider using the parish's online giving system. Online giving will really help our parish right now because it is automatic! Even when we are not able to be present at Mass to give our weekly offertory gift, the parish continues to receive our weekly tithes. It is safe, secure, and operates with the same high level of security and bank grade encryption which we come to expect from our financial institutions. St. Kathryn Parish offers online giving directly from our parish website which allows us to make donations via electronic check or debit/credit card. Online giving has been a proven success for many parishes, schools, and dioceses. Plus, it makes for safer record-keeping, faster processing, and more efficient communication at the parish office. I ask you to prayerfully recommit to the desire of sharing your gifts with greater ease and convenience through this feature. The reverse of this letter has detailed instructions on how to set up an online giving account and you may also contact the parish office for further support.

According to national studies, the average Catholic gives to his or her parish 40 out of 52 weeks per year, when you count all the times they're on vacation, home sick, unable to attend Mass due to weather, traveling for work – which doesn't even take into account our current situation of being homebound, this makes for a significant impact. Companies that specialize in online giving for Catholic Churches have found that the more a parish intentionally gives through online offertory, that parish would have 30% more funds over time to get us through difficult weeks such as these.

I realize that there are so many demands on all of us of right now, but this is truly an important need for the sustaining of our parish community. Again, I want to express my deepest gratitude for your continued generosity, prayers, and participation in the ministry and mission of St. Kathryn Parish. Your efforts make so many things possible for our parish as well as the local community.

Know that I am praying for all of you in a special way each day. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me during these challenging times if you are in need and I remain united with you in asking our Lady to bring an end to this time of sickness and uncertainty for ourselves, the Church, and the world.

In Jesus and Mary,

  
Fr. Michael Monette  
Pastor

## **Step-by-step instructions for signing up for Online Giving**

- 1) Visit our website, [stkathryns.org](http://stkathryns.org), and click one of our buttons or links to Online Giving; or, visit our Online Giving site directly by going to <https://www.myowngiving.com/Default.aspx?cid=1556>
- 2) Click "Sign Up for a New Account" and follow the prompts to create a username and password.
- 3) Schedule a new gift, such as a recurring weekly offertory donation. For detailed instructions, please visit <https://bit.ly/3aD1SYI>.
- 4) For troubleshooting, please contact parish office staff at 603.882.7793