

April 20, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Blessings to all of you and your families. My prayers are with you during this time of new and unforeseen challenges for all of us. I especially hold up in prayer those who are suffering from illness, those who are caring for the sick, and those who are struggling in any way because of the effects the COVID-19 pandemic is having on our community. May God give us strength, solidarity and creativity as we journey together through this moment. We trust that God's plan for us always leads to salvation.

By now we are all well aware of the ripple effects of the current situation on our families, our communities and our world as a whole. In that light I wish to inform you of our status at St. Alexander and ask for your continued support as we navigate this crisis together.

St. Alexander Church is entirely dependent on the financial contributions of parishioners. The overwhelming majority of our donations are received in the offertory at Mass. When we cannot celebrate public Masses, we depend on parishioners bringing their contributions to the office or donating online. We are still striving to provide services to our parishioners, maintain our facilities and prepare ourselves for resuming our activities as the sheltering restrictions are lifted over time. Just like all of you, in the midst of crisis, must continue to meet the needs of your families, together we must continue to meet the needs of our parish family.

I know that many of you are facing financial uncertainty because of loss of work. None of us knows what the future holds. But I wish to ask for your continued financial support of our parish, to the extent possible. Please prayerfully consider what you are able to give at this time. Your ongoing support will enable us to keep our staff and programs in place and our facilities maintained so that we are ready to return to full speed with our parish ministries as soon as it is safe to do so. Please note that I would prefer you make your donations to the parish offertory program (the normal Sunday collection) at this time, rather than to the building project (green envelopes). We will come back to the building project once we make it through this emergency time. For now, we need your support for the normal operating expenses of our parish community. Thank you so much for your generous support.

You can make your contribution in any of the following ways:

- With credit card or bank account: stalexandercornelius.org/offertory-ofertorio
- By check: mail to St. Alexander Church, PO Box 644, Cornelius, OR 97113.
- In cash: please call 503-359-0304 to make arrangements to safely deliver your cash to the parish office.

Thank you to those who have already inquired about how to continue to support the parish and who are generously doing so in spite of the uncertainty. Thank you to those who are reaching out virtually to friends and neighbors, helping to maintain the connections that normally take place in person at St. Alexander. Thank you to those who are praying fervently for an end to this pandemic and offering living examples of faith in uncertain times.

May our blessed Mother watch over us with tender care, leading us to trust in her Son. And may God bless all of you and your families with health and peace, in this challenging time and always.

One in Christ,

Fr. David Schiferl