



To: Parish and School Families of Visitation Catholic Parish.
From: Fr. Martin Bourke, Pastor, Visitation Parish, 3314, S. 58th Street, WA 98409
Topic: Financial Support for Parish and School Operations.
Date: March 19, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

It is with reluctance that I address the topic of money at this time. The stock market is almost in free fall and it appears that unemployment will be widespread. So many families will be uncertain about future income to cover their basic needs.

The reality is that many people live from paycheck to paycheck with almost no safety net. They will be fearful about lack of food during the coming weeks and months.

I expect that both the Federal and State governments will attempt to address the need of those who are financially dependent. As neighbors, it is important that we check that no one in our local area is hungry.

On a second level, there is the matter of income to maintain parish and school operation. Given the cancellation of masses and temporary closure of school, we are looking at a significant drop of income. We still do have parish and school staff that need to be paid so that they can support their families.

I now appeal to those of you who continue to have a steady stream of income and even may have a nest egg. This would be a time to stretch a little, to make up for those who are unable to continue their support for parish and school. It is certain that some people will have to stop donating to the us. I am sure that you understand that.

Given what I have seen, this virus outbreak may take at least 3 more months to get control of it.

In the meantime, could you consider an extra effort to keep us afloat by your contribution. I have tried to cut costs by turning off the heat in the church building, parish halls and Collier center. I have lowered the thermostat here in the parish office and in my residence, I have cut off the heat to the guest room quarters.

I continue to look at other areas where we might save on cash outflow. "A penny saved is a penny earned" my mother would say.

It remains an honor to serve you in this historic parish of Visitation. Please do what you can to keep this ship of the church solvent.

Blessings always

Fr. Martin Bourke.

(To sign up for online donations, please go to <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/1059>. If you have any questions about online donations, please contact Jeannine Wargo at the Parish Office.)