

November 18, 2020

Dear Parishioner,

Foggy lenses (from mask wearing), empty pews, staying at home, streaming masses, slipping a host under our mask, social distancing—have all become a part of our Mother of God community life that we never expected. While we have faith these things will end, it is hard to predict when life will return to “normal.”

In spite of the inconveniences we endure and, for many, the decision to stay home and not attend weekly mass, we remain a community of faithful members of Mother of God Church. All of us love our cozy church and the sense of belonging that a small parish provides. During these trying times, our parish continues to need your involvement to the extent of your comfort level, your continuing prayers for all members of our parish and your financial support according to your means.

While none of us enjoy asking for money, the purpose of this letter is to address the issue of “financial support according to your means.” We are writing this letter to ask that you review your giving to Mother of God Church. Even though mass attendance is low because of Covid-19, the costs of running the parish remain the same. Salaries and benefits, repairs and maintenance, utilities, Catholic school support, and Diocesan support costs all continue to be incurred. In addition to the above routine items, the security system on the grounds of the church and rectory and the floor in the lower level bathroom need repair or replacement. We had hoped to defer these expenses but as they concern the safety of our Church and its members, we simply cannot.

The Finance Council recently met to review the first quarter (ended September 30, 2020) of the current fiscal year’s financial statements. The offertory collection combined with online giving and other gifts and bequests have declined by 25% from the same time last year. While we were blessed to receive a one-time contribution from The Denver Foundation making the overall decline in contributions 15% for this quarter, we do not expect another significant one-time contribution for the remainder of the year.

The Mother of God community has always been generous when the parish is in need, for which we are grateful. We understand that some parishioners may have lost their jobs and others may have incurred unforeseen costs due to the Covid-19 crisis. But if your financial situation has not been strained, we are asking you to support Mother of God Church even if you are not presently able to attend weekly mass and participate in other church activities. For those of you who have continued to support our parish, an increase in your support to overcome the current shortfall would be most welcome and appreciated.

Thank you for your understanding and may God keep you in His warm and comforting embrace!

In Christ,

The Finance Council of Mother of God Church

Ruth Brown, Annette Weidle, Bill Ross, Meaghan Matelon, and Kathryn Gelderman. Fr. Vincent Phung