



ST. BERNARDINE OF SIENA PARISH

24410 Calvert Street, Woodland Hills, CA 91367

November 8, 2020

Dear St. Bernardine Parishioners,

During difficult times, I find consolation in reflecting upon the visible signs of God's abundant blessings in my life. Your faithful participation in parish life is an expression of those blessings. Know that I am grateful to you during these extraordinary times. My daily prayers are for you, asking God to keep you well, and to bring His abiding love to you during these difficult times.

Here at St. Bernardine, ministry is different but unceasing. We remain a faithful community, and we continue to do our best to meet the spiritual needs of our parishioners in numerous ways: outdoor Masses, drive through confession and communion services, livestreamed Masses, with communication to parishioners via Facebook, our parish website, Constant Contact emails, and bulletins, to name a few.

Aside from the usual needs of keeping the lights on, I also have the responsibility to maintain the staff at the parish and to continue our ministries. With the COVID-19 restrictions placed on our church, we have seen our weekly offerings plunge. As such, I have had to take strong measures in reducing our parish's expenses which includes cutting hours and laying off staff, reducing and eliminating non-essential repairs to our buildings, and providing the most basic services for our ministries. Despite all this, I hold steadfast in my belief that God is with us helping us to continue to do His work.

Since our parish relies solely on the generosity of its members, we need your help covering the shortfall caused by the pandemic lockdown. We have established a new online giving category: Emergency Operations Fund. Over the next few weeks, we are asking you to consider the following:

- making a one-time additional gift;
- making a new reoccurring gift;
- increasing your ongoing giving plan;
- resuming your ongoing giving plan (if you suspended it);
- or starting a new ongoing giving plan.

Donations can be made online through our church website at www.stbernardine.org, mailed, or dropped off in our Parish Office.

This appeal is an opportunity for the faithful to respond to Christ's command, "to love one another as I have loved you" (John 15:12). We know there are families who may also be experiencing financial hardship at this time, and to them we send our prayers for hope and recovery. To those who can, we ask for your financial support to continue to do the works of Christ.

Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers as I privately celebrate Mass each day. May Our Father see us through our difficulties together as one Church, in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Michael". The script is cursive and fluid, with a large initial "F" and "M".

Fr. Michael Evans
Pastor
