



# ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

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## ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Decemeber 4, 2020

Dear St. Catherine Parish Family,

I think it goes without saying that 2020 has been an incredibly challenging year on many different fronts, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic. I know many of you have experienced significant trials personally and professionally. Nonetheless, we know that the Lord has not abandoned us. And although there is always a temptation to fear the unknown, we have reason for hope, and **there is much to be grateful for**. I am particularly grateful to the Lord that we have been able to resume most of our parish life, especially in coming back together for Mass, Confessions, and Adoration. Our outreach ministries such as St. Vincent de Paul and Thanks for Giving have continued to be active, and our staff has been working very hard to provide as many different in-person and virtual options as possible for our faith formation and community life in our parish and our schools.

Even in the midst of this pandemic, **our community is thriving, and your support is as important as ever**. As you know, we are continuing our *Stewardship as a Way of Life* program not only to provide for the needs of our parish but also as a way to express our gratitude to God for His goodness. We began our stewardship program focusing on Stewardship of Prayer and Faith Formation, giving God back the gift of our time to grow in faith. Subsequently, we focused on Stewardship of Vocations, with a commitment to strengthening vocations to marriage and priesthood and religious life. And finally, **I would like to invite you to participate in a commitment to Stewardship of Treasure**.

Because of the decrease in Mass attendance and other participation due to the pandemic, our offertory has seen a noticeable decrease. Although I have taken measures to decrease our expenses, we are still seeing a significant shortfall of over \$50,000 in our budget as we approach the end of the calendar year (which is the midway point of our fiscal year). As part of your Stewardship of Treasure commitment, I would like to ask two things of you: **first, to consider a generous end-of-year gift to help close the gap in our budget, and second, to fill out the included commitment card and return it at Mass next week (or you can fill out an electronic card available on our website) and make a strong commitment to regularly support our parish next year**. Specifically, I ask you to consider committing to a regular offering by check, envelope, or even better, through our online giving option.

I want to thank all of your for your generosity and constant support of our parish. The Lord is truly blessing our efforts to serve him. Please know of my prayers for you and your family each day.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Neil

\*Any questions regarding our stewardship program can be directed to Charissa Saenz at [charissas@stcatherinercc.org](mailto:charissas@stcatherinercc.org).

