

AMDG

June 23, 2020

Dear Gesu Parishioners,

This is an important moment in our history as a faith community. At the end of May, we gathered together in our beautiful Church for the first time in over two months to celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost amid an extremely challenging week for our nation. We are so grateful to open our doors to you again, though we recognize it may feel a little uncomfortable or unfamiliar in this new environment. Please understand we are all learning as we go, and the re-opening of our Church is a process that will continue to evolve over time. Despite these challenges, it is a joy to see familiar faces from the Gesu Community in our Church again.

I recognize that many of you will need a little more time to return in person, and that is okay. I want you to know that even if you cannot join us just yet, you are still a part of our Gesu community. Please continue to worship with us virtually through our recorded Masses and our daily reflections on our website, sign up for our weekly e-newsletter, and please always know that you can reach a member of our staff or me at (216) 932-0617.

As we near the end of the fiscal year on June 30, we would like to provide you with a report on where our parish stands financially. This has and will continue to be a challenging time for many, and Gesu is no exception. Although our weekly offertory has declined, we were blessed by the generosity of a few parishioners who stepped up and made additional gifts that have allowed us to report a stable/balanced budget goal for the 2019-20 fiscal year. We also made several reductions in expenses, which has helped us to be in a stable financial situation. However, going forward we cannot continue to rely on a few parishioners to keep us in a good financial situation.

So, despite the good news, we must realistically plan for our new fiscal year. We hope that those of you who are able to support the parish financially will be generous to us this year. Gesu Church and School continues to rely on your support. I ask you to please consider giving as you are able in one of the following ways:

1. **Donate online** using this secure link: www.churchofthegesu.org/parish-giving
2. **Mail your envelope contribution:** 2470 Miramar Blvd. University Heights, OH 44118
3. **Drop your offertory envelope in the offertory basket.**
4. **Text to Give** - Text \$ amount to (216) 930-2992 and enter your credit/debit card.

If you have continued your offertory support through this crisis – **thank you**. If you are unable to give due to financial hardship – **we are with you**. For those in our community who can give at this time, I ask you to consider a gift above and beyond your regular weekly giving to continue to keep us in a sound financial position. Any amount is a tremendous gift to us, and **I thank you from the bottom of my heart**.

As we continue to move through these next phases of the Covid-19 crisis and navigate these troubling times, please know that I pray daily for your safety and that of your loved ones. Gesu remains strong and committed to our Jesuit mission of *Eucharistic Living, Lifelong Learning and Generous Serving*. We are a people of hope and we know that Jesus is always with us in many ways, but especially in the Eucharist. Please be assured that the parish staff and I are here to support you and your families.

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karl J. Kiser".

Karl J. Kiser, SJ
Pastor