

St. Francis by the Sea Catholic Church
45 Beach City Road
Hilton Head Island, S.C. 29926

June 29, 2020

Dear Parishioner,

I write on behalf of the priests and staff of Saint Francis by the Sea parish. We rejoice that we are able to celebrate mass again.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all parishioners and visitors who have continued to contribute to the parish during the mandated shut-down. These donations have greatly helped us to keep the church operating as normal as possible during this unprecedented event.

Our fiscal year ends June 30, 2020. Because of the pandemic and the subsequent closing of the church, we now have a projected budget shortfall of more than (\$200,000). The good news is that the parish qualified for the Paycheck Protection Program ("PPP"), which permitted us to take a loan in the amount of \$191,012 to offset this tremendous loss. However, it is unlikely that the church will receive any future aid and we continue to face difficult times ahead. In keeping with strict guidelines for the safety of parishioners, clergy, staff and volunteers, we are limited to the number of masses we can offer and limited in seating capacity as well. This has greatly impacted our offertory.

Starting July 1, 2020, the church has reduced departmental ministry discretionary budgets by 50%. In addition, the Diocese has mandated no employee salary increases. We will closely monitor the first quarter of this new fiscal year's offertory results to see if additional cuts will be forthcoming.

In the meanwhile, I'd like to ask you to prayerfully consider making a financial contribution to the parish. Please know that any amount fitting your budget would be very greatly appreciated. There are four ways to make a contribution:

- You may make an electronic contribution. Please visit the church website at www.stfrancishhi.org and use the donate button
- You may mail your donation directly to the church
- You may bring your donation to the parish office
- At the entrance, offertory baskets will be set out at each weekend and daily mass

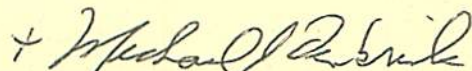
I acknowledge that over these last 16 weeks, these unprecedented times affect everyone to a greater or lesser extent, and I am sincerely thankful for the generous support we have received.

At this time, we are reserving seats for weekend masses. Please know that we are carefully arranging seating for each of our weekend masses, so if you are able to attend mass, please visit the church website at www.stfrancishhi.org and click the "mass signup" link to choose the mass that you would like to attend. If you are not capable of making arrangements over the internet, you can certainly call the parish office and the staff will work to arrange seating. Daily mass is celebrated in the Family Center, while weekend masses are celebrated in the Multipurpose Building as well as the Family Center.

I pray that God will bless you.

In Christ – United in Faith, Love and Service

_____ Amount Enclosed:



Father Michael Oenbrink
Pastor

_____ Parishioner #

843-681-6350



843-689-5502 (fax)