

Dear Parishioners,

As I write to you at this time, my hope and prayer is that you are first and foremost safe and practicing good health habits. These past weeks have brought much confusion and uncertainty in the lives of many. At the same time, hidden blessings have also emerged. Families doing more together, people searching for ways to reach out and help others, being more conscientious about health habits, and time to spend in prayerful communication with Jesus.

St. Luke Parish is working hard to keep the communication lines open, on a working/practical sense and most importantly on a spiritual sense. Although we are not able to celebrate as usual, I believe it is most important that we stay connected with the Good News of Jesus Christ and we will continue to provide avenues for you to do so.

One of the more difficult areas to talk about, especially during times of crises, are finances. I can only imagine the stress that has been placed upon the financial situation in households due to COVID – 19. My prayers continue to be with all of you as you navigate through this time. As a pastor, yes, I am concerned about the financial stress that has been placed upon the Parish due to COVID – 19...in particular the offertory collection now that we are not permitted to celebrate public Masses. Like yours, the financial obligations of St. Luke Parish continue.

Here at St. Luke we have been blessed with many who have continued to support the church through the weekly offertory. As pastor I deeply appreciate their sacrifice. I also understand and appreciate that there are some who are experiencing financial strain and may question whether they can or cannot continue their weekly offering. As with everything we encounter in our lives, prayer is the key. All I ask is that you pray as to whether at this time it is feasible to continue your weekly offering and if you are able, then what amount can you offer St. Luke Parish. Prayer will help you come to both an answer and an amount with which you will be comfortable, and which will also bring you peace.

There are several ways that offertory gifts can be brought to the Parish:

1. Mail envelopes to the parish office at 421 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street, Erie, PA 16504
2. While the parish office is closed at this time (although when needed, we will make arrangements to fulfill your need), the outside door before entering the parish office will be opened Monday – Friday between 8:30am – 5:00pm. Envelopes can be dropped off in the basket by the door or through the mail slot in the rectory door
3. In response to the needs of the faithful, the Diocese of Erie is collaborating with the Catholic Foundation of NW PA and Catholic Charities to assist in helping parishioners by developing an easy on-line way to financially support your parish. The procedure is simple and is as follows: log onto <https://catholicfoundationnwpa.salsalabs.org/parishoffertorysupportfund/index.html> then choose St. Luke Parish and follow instructions.

Thanks for reading this letter. Please know of my prayers for you and your family.

