



CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

2777 E. Livingston Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43209-3039
Ph: 614-237-0401
Fax: 614-237-4689

May 1, 2020
Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker

My dear friends in Christ,

It is hard to believe that almost seven weeks have passed since we have celebrated Mass publicly in our diocese. We are all still getting used to the fact that we cannot gather around the altar, but I am very proud of the way our parish has come together by way of technology and other means. In no way are we “shut down” as a church. It is true that all of our ministries are modified, and many of our events have been postponed. However, we have far from given up on our mission to build the Kingdom of God.

Let me highlight just two quick examples of what I mean. First, the Bishop Griffin Resource Center is serving more families than ever. There were 997 households that visited the center in the month of April. This is more than double the number of households typically served this time of year. Over the past six weeks, over 80,000 pounds of food have been distributed to our neighbors in need. This is what the Kingdom of God looks like!

Second, I was recently in touch with a family in our parish that now watches Mass and prays the rosary every day on Christ the King’s Facebook Page. They had not done anything like this in their home before the pandemic, but now they are deepening their faith and strengthening their family in the midst of this crisis. Little by little, their hearts are being opened to God and to one another. This is also what the Kingdom of God looks like!

Christ the King Catholic Church exists precisely for this reason: we are here to build God’s Kingdom in a rich variety of ways. When we actively live our faith and cooperate enthusiastically with God’s grace, the Kingdom grows in our hearts, our homes, our church, and our city. I am blessed to have been assigned to this particular parish family, and it is a privilege to witness the Kingdom of God grow even during these days of the pandemic.

That having been said, this crisis has presented us with a number of challenges, one of which is financial. With no public Masses, we are without our weekly collection in the pews, which is our main source of income. Many parishioners give to the church electronically, and many others are mailing in their envelopes. However, our normal offertory income is down on average \$5,000 each week. And to make matters worse, our two biggest fundraisers, the Fiesta de Mayo and the Parish Festival, have been impacted by the pandemic. We count on those events to generate approximately \$20,000 every year to support our parish ministries.

For that reason, I would like to ask all of our parishioners who are able to consider increasing their financial support of Christ the King. I know that a great deal of our parishioners are currently facing serious financial insecurity because of job loss and other factors. Please know that I share your concern and am not insensitive to that. But there are others who have been able to continue working or have the means to support the church to a greater extent. Now is the time when we need your support.

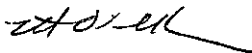
Personally speaking, I have decided to step out in faith and make a meaningful sacrifice for our church by increasing my monthly contribution to the parish by 100%. Hopefully my extra donation will make up for some of those who are unable to give during the pandemic. If you are able, I invite you to consider joining me in giving sacrificially. You can find information on how to do so on our website or by calling our business manager, Desmond Webster, at 614-427-3585.

We know that these days of social distancing are far from over. It will take time to get used to the new ways in which we will celebrate the sacraments and live our faith together. The challenges we face now, financial and otherwise, will continue to require from us heroic generosity and deep faith.

It is not lost on me that this year has been dedicated to our preparation for our parish's 75th anniversary. On January 17, 2021, we will be celebrating this significant milestone as a parish family. The generosity and faith of past generations have paved the way to this moment in Christ the King's history. And I am convinced that the generosity and faith of our current parishioners will enable us to continue to build God's Kingdom well into the future.

Let me conclude this letter by highlighting the date. It is the first day of the month of May, a month dedicated to the Mother of God. We are relying heavily on her intercession and motherly affection. It is also the Feast Day of St. Joseph the Worker, the patron saint of the Universal Church. We depend on his prayers and fatherly protection now more than ever. As I celebrate Mass in our church each day, I look up to the image of Christ the King in the stained glass. Above and to my left is the beautiful image of Mary clothed with the sun and encircled with stars. Above and to my right is the striking image of Joseph carrying a pilgrim staff and two turtle doves. As I gaze upon the Holy Family in stained glass – Jesus, Mary, and Joseph – I know that they look down upon our parish family with love and concern. Throughout the month of May and beyond, we will commend ourselves to their providential care. Our faith in Christ, as well as our trust in his Mother and foster-father, will sustain us in the days ahead.

With sincere gratitude,



Father David Schalk
Pastor