



Support the Reading Catholic Community

Dear Parishioners,

Our Catholic Community has a big footprint in Reading, and I have so much hope in the plans that God has for us. Even in the midst of the “shut-down” the Church continues to be present as she always is in people’s lives. Our community has risen to the occasion presented by this pandemic by continuing to bring the Faith through the internet. Today, we are a “virtual” presence and we look to tomorrow – to the future – to when we get beyond these current times to a new beginning of faith and hope for our Catholic Community.

As we all experience the unprecedented coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis, please know of our prayers for you and your loved ones. While striving to proceed safely through each day, remember our faith means we are never alone, even in these most difficult times. Faith is the foundation of hope, and with hope, we can still address the most complex challenges of life without being overcome by them.

One such challenge is the financial well-being of the parishes. Our Catholic Community now faces a significant financial trial, as some of you are experiencing also. I am reaching out to all parishioners for assistance as offertory revenue is by far our largest source of revenue. Due to the pandemic eliminating in-person Mass attendance, our weekly offertory has been sharply reduced. Mailed-in offertory envelopes and cash and electronically transferred funds, while much appreciated, are not covering our essential financial obligations. All expenses continue to be reviewed very closely. The Collaborative has recently made some painful, but necessary, reductions in staffing. We have permanently laid off 1 full-time and 2 part-time staff members and reduced remaining staff hours. All non-essential spending is frozen.

At this time, I ask you, please, to continue your weekly offertory support of our parishes by mailing in your envelopes or donations, or by making an online donation through the Reading Catholic website. If you are able to increase your weekly offering or make a one-time contribution, please do this. Historically, both parishes have stood strong as a community and always stepped up to address unexpected financial challenges. **We need your assistance now.** *And we understand some members of our community family are suffering financially due to the coronavirus and cannot make such a financial contribution. If this is you, please know that you remain a valued member of our community family and we pray for you and hope things get better for you soon.*

If your family has not already signed up for on-line giving, I strongly urge you to consider its convenience. Use the link below to our website to arrange for automatic offertory donations, make a one-time donation, and/or register for offertory envelopes.

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<https://www.readingcatholic.org/giving-1>

I will provide on-going updates as we work to maintain the financial sustainability of the Reading Catholic Community.

Asking God’s blessings upon you all and all whom you hold dear,

Fr. Steve, Pastor, and on behalf of the Collaborative Pastoral Council and the St. Agnes & St. Athanasius Finance Councils