



SAINT BENEDICT CATHOLIC + CHURCH

28 October 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are blessed with a thriving, vibrant parish. We experience Jesus Christ in the sacraments, in growing knowledge of our Christian faith, and in serving those around us. We are bound together in Christ as a large, diverse family unified by our love for him and for each other. I never cease to be thankful for each one of you, for your fidelity and generosity, making our common witness to the world ever more inspiring.

St. Benedict is a growing community of faith, both spiritually and numerically. Last year we experienced 10% growth as a parish family. Week by week we continue to see new faces at Mass and parish events. People travel here from all over the area because they are attracted to the beauty of our liturgy and welcoming spirit. Our finances are strong and we are blessed to be able to fully fund our current operating budget through the tithes and offerings of our parishioners.

But with this growth also come positive challenges. The many young children in our parish will need increased opportunities in catechesis and formation in the near future. Many parishioners have expressed a strong desire for more Bible studies and other catechetical programs, and we would like to provide these for adults of all ages. Our music program continues to draw visitors even as it adds fundamental beauty to our worship, and we would love to expand it as well. These goals and others, important for our continued spiritual growth as a parish, require additional staffing and resources which our current level of offertory giving does not allow.

Most vitally, we would like to create a new position, Associate Director of Evangelization, to assist Ben Fleser and our whole staff in creating and implementing these and other opportunities for ministry and catechesis across the board. For this to happen, we need a significant increase in offertory giving.

Keeping in mind our current and future needs, and after prayerful consideration and discussion with the Finance Council, I am asking each of you to consider increasing your ongoing offertory contribution. I respect so much the generosity you already show, and request that each of us challenge ourselves to give even more sacrificially, as we seek to grow ever more brightly as a beacon of Christ's love in a dark world.

With this letter you will find a commitment card to fill out and return at one of our two stewardship Sundays, November 5 and 12, or by mail. You can also make a commitment through our parish website. This is simply a statement of your intent to give, to help us plan, and is not a legally binding pledge. Perhaps you are able to increase your giving considerably. Perhaps you need to stay at your current level of giving. Either way, know how much I appreciate your generosity, in all of its forms, to our parish!

God bless you,

Rev. John David Ramsey
Pastor