



July 5, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

Last week at Mass I spoke of our general financial situation here at St. Jerome during this pandemic, specifically our collections and “Hand in Hand”. Today I want to cover the rest of it.

**DSF**, although apparently more or less on schedule in the rest of the Archdioceses, is much slower than normal this year. We have not reached 50% paid as of now, and only about 62% in pledges. We are about 480 fewer pledges than last year from parishioners. The goal that is not reached has to be paid by us anyway. This year we have been unable to have 7 second collections for DSF.

The **Ignite Campaign** for the Archdiocese started last spring before Covid, but was put on hold for obvious reasons. The drive will be continued either in the Fall or Spring, depending on things being restored.

All **Second Collections**, including St. Vincent de Paul have been heavily impacted downward as well. The one that did best since the shutdown was Rice Bowl which brought in over \$6,000.00, but even that was a big drop from last year.

**Our Annual Fall Festival** is off and running with the Raffle having begun and off to a very positive start. It will be a one day event this year, Sunday, September 27 from 9 am to 9 pm, but exactly what we won't be able to do this year is not yet known. Our raffle ticket printer told us we were the first to order raffle tickets this year. Due to the high cost of meat, the menu for dinner will be chicken fried steak or chicken fried chicken for a change this time.

**St. Jerome Catholic School** will open in the Fall under the direction of a new but very experienced principal, Ms. Jan Krametbauer. She has 34 years of experience in Catholic School education, 11 years of which were here in St. Jerome (before even I came), and 22 years as a successful principal. She is familiar in how to handle school matters in both good times and bad and puts the student's well-being in first priority. There is no one I would rather have in charge of our school in these difficult times.

Once again I urge you to use **FAITH DIRECT!**

**It is also the easiest way for you to support your parish.**

**It gives us income we can always count on whether you are here at Mass or not**

Changes to your giving up or down can be made at any time, 24 hours a day on-line, even from your phone at the last minute. If you would like help, you can call Louis De La Cruz at the office or call Katherine Guillory.

You don't ever have to worry about forgetting envelopes at home again.

You don't have to ask us why the Post Office did not send yours this month.

The church doesn't have to pay for your envelopes & postage to be sent.

I signed up myself & found it easy and user friendly—you can talk to a person if you like.

Your parish can then count on you every week to pay the essential bills.

Sign up on **MY Parish APP** or our website: [www.stjeromehou.org](http://www.stjeromehou.org)

Thank you for your generosity and May God bless you and keep you safe!

Fr. Dan