

The Diocesan Annual Campaign 2020

- I thank God that we are able to worship together again, in person. These last several months have been difficult on all of us and on our communities. I thank each of you for remaining steadfast to our faith and to each other, and I thank you especially for your words of encouragement, phone calls and letters, and continued financial support. We did what we could to continue to minister to you, support you and show the love we have for our parish family. You may have joined us through the many live streamed Masses, enhanced social media presence, our emailed parish newsletters, the bulletin delivered electronically or many of our other ways of remaining connected while at home.
- While the church building was physically closed, our faith has continued to be nurtured and grow in various ways. Many of you might have read the emails from Bishop Gainer, streamed Mass from other parishes and continued to support the work of our parish by mailing or by dropping off your weekly envelopes. Thank you. Your continued support of our work is extremely gratifying and humbling.
- All of you have given up so much because of the pandemic. But now I am asking you to give again. Now more than ever, your support is needed to help our friends, neighbors and complete strangers whose lives have been devastated by the pandemic. While the coronavirus has created many hardships, both for parishioners, businesses large and small, and our parishes, the need for services provided by the Diocesan Annual Campaign has never been more urgent. Because of our partnership with the Diocese and through this campaign, we as a parish can help those in need throughout our community, and communities across the Diocese. Throughout the pandemic, the ministries and services of the Diocese never stopped. Catholic Charities continued to provide remote counseling services to clients and to provide safe havens for the homeless, while still complying with state guidelines. The IT and Communications departments at the Diocese have provided guidance and support for parishes as we created emails and newsletters for the parish. Evangelization content has been shared with the parishes to supplement our outreach and ministry programs. The Diocesan Finance staff has worked hand in hand with our parish and other parishes as we applied for the Payroll Protection Program, allowing us to keep our parish staff working.
- I understand that some of you may think we should be not be held to the campaign goal that was established by the Diocese. Please stop and think what will happen if our parish and parishes throughout the Diocese do not meet their goals. How many single mothers will send their children to bed hungry because they have no food? How many families will be sleeping in their cars because they have no home? How many of our young people will lack the faith formation they desperately need because we have no formation resources? In our parish, there are a significant number of parishioners who have already supported the DAC, and for those gifts, I am grateful for your generous support. There are also a number of parishioners who have never made a gift to the DAC. The Diocese's support of our parish has never been more important as it is this year, as we had to transition to new ways of staying in touch with you. We would not have been able to do it on our own.
- If you have never made a gift to the DAC, I respectfully ask you to consider a gift this year as an expression of your appreciation of your parish and the importance that our parish has in the community. If you are unable to give at this time, please continue to remember the work of the parish and the Diocese in your prayers.

Parish goal: \$ 68,255
Pledges & Gifts: \$ 45,864.20
Shortfall: \$ 22,390.80

This campaign DOES NOT fund individual Parishes, provide financial support for priests on administrative leave, nor the financial settlements for survivors of clergy abuse.

Pledge envelopes are available in the parish office.