



*“It’s always darkest before the dawn.”*

The quote is attributed to Thomas Fuller, English clergyman and author, in 1650. Perhaps this was a reference to Lent and the anticipated Easter dawn. In any event, today’s global situation appears very dark indeed. From both faith and intellect, we know things will eventually improve and we will get through this. But the painful disruption we face in the present is quite unsettling and can have long-term consequences if not handled properly.

Many of you have asked what you can do to support St. John’s missions in this time of uncertainty. To put it directly, you should continue your financial support. Your gifts are key to maintaining the viability of our parish.

The collections from Sunday services are typically around \$10,000 each week. These funds are fully committed to ongoing operations, including staff, property, and ministries. In the absence of Sunday services, these weekly contributions are disrupted, and our financial stability threatened. Steps are being taken to reduce and/or delay expenses to the extent practical. But in reality, it is essential that we maintain this weekly income for St. John’s overall financial health.

We therefore urge you to seek alternate methods of contributing your gifts and do so timely. You can simply mail your gifts, along with any specific instructions, directly to the church office. A second option is to set up an automatic, recurring electronic fund transfer (EFT) from your bank to St. John’s bank.

A third (new) option is to give online through St. John’s web site <https://stjohns-lancaster.org>. You can send one-time gifts or schedule recurring ones using this safe and secure portal. Look for the **GIVE** tab. This option does require a small processing fee that you can choose to include in your gift or not. If you need any help with any of these methods, call Gina in the church office and she will walk you through the setup process.

In closing, the central message is this: If you have the means to give, please do not delay. This requires a change from dropping an envelope in the collection plate. Your gifts are crucial to the life and vitality of our parish. We all want much more than St. John’s survival; we want St. John’s to thrive when we come out of this and your continued support will make that possible.

Many thanks,  
*Charles Wear*  
Treasurer

**GROW IN GOD, ACT IN SERVICE, WITNESS IN LOVE**

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