

## **SUPPORTING OUR PARISH IN A TIME OF NEED**

One of the most devastating aspects of the COVID-19 pandemic is that it has left staggering numbers of hardworking people in a place of economic insecurity. The shuttering of businesses, and furloughing or outright firing of so many employees has created record unemployment, and left many people without a sense of financial stability.

Not surprisingly, every parish and Church institution in our Diocese has also been impacted. Even now, with public Mass once again being celebrated in church, the seating must be limited to provide for adequate distancing, and therefore our attendance and in-person collections have been modest.

All that being said, **the St. Lawrence community has been *amazing* in its steady, uninterrupted support**, even when giving means sacrifice on the part of our parishioners. The 2019-2020 Financial Report gives ample evidence that our community is determined not to allow the challenges of the pandemic to undermine the financial wellbeing of our spiritual home. **As we continue to navigate such an uncertain time, I ask that each household do what they can to help sustain St. Lawrence.** For those who are not yet attending Mass in person, there are several options for practicing good stewardship on a weekly or monthly basis:

1. Those who regularly use the envelope system are asked to please **mail** your envelopes to the rectory, or **drop them off** at the office.
2. Those who normally give cash in the collection basket are asked to write a check for the time being, and send it to us.
3. Those who do so much of their banking, bill-paying, etc. online are asked to consider using **Faith Direct**, the simple electronic means of parish support that is designed for situations *just like this!* To register, all you need to do is go to [www.faithdirect.net](http://www.faithdirect.net) and use our parish code: NY234. Or simply call 1-866-507-8757. Signing up literally takes 15 minutes, and can make a huge difference in our financial wellbeing. (See the next page for more info.)

Please give prayerful consideration to what you can give in a spirit of **trusting and generous stewardship**, and offer what's manageable for you at this time. Consistency is the key! We're SO grateful for your ongoing support, in good times and in bad.

## **ONLINE GIVING**

During a time of unprecedented challenge, we depend on your steady, consistent support *more than ever*. We urge you to use "**e-Giving**," which allows you to donate from your computer, smart phone or tablet. This is the time to switch, if there ever was one! Register now to set up a recurring donation, or make a one-time gift. It's surprisingly simple! How does e-Giving benefit you *and* our parish?

- ✓ Consistency: Your support comes to St. Lawrence with the regularity we so much need, regardless of your ability to attend Mass, vacation time, bad weather, etc.
- ✓ Convenience: Support the parish from the safety of home with a computer or smartphone; registering will take 15 minutes!
- ✓ Simplicity: Once registered, e-Giving requires no effort, no weekly envelopes, and allows us to redirect printing and mailing costs in more worthwhile directions.

To make a donation, simply go to <https://membership.faithdirect.net/NY234> or call Faith Direct at 866-507-8757.

## **TEXT-TO-GIVE**

Any other options? Indeed there is! Faith Direct has provided us with an option for supporting St. Lawrence **via text**. For those who do a lot of texting through the day, this could be an especially easy way to donate either a recurring or one-time gift to the parish. Simply text a dollar amount (for example, \$20) to **631-201-4904** to get started. The number is exclusive to St. Lawrence. Simple, smart, and convenient!

*Thank you* for using whatever means you prefer to help support our parish!