

December 2020

Dear St. John of God Parishioner,

I miss you! And I pray that you are staying safe and healthy in this difficult year.

As the restrictions imposed by the pandemic continue to drag on ... and on and on, I am feeling bored, confined and deprived. I miss family dinners and hugging my grandchildren. I miss meeting friends for a meal and a movie and a good discussion afterwards. Maybe you do, too. And I miss going to Mass at St. John of God. I have found online Zoom Masses that meet some of my spiritual needs. But the slickest Zoom worship service is a poor second to being in our lovely little chapel at 5th and Irving with a live – and lively – congregation.



Sometimes I soothe myself by imagining the day when all of the Covid-19 restrictions are behind us and we can once again celebrate Mass together at St. John of God. There will be music! And singing! And familiar faces doing the readings, delivering the homily, distributing the Eucharist. And friends sharing their personal concerns and asking for prayers. And a coffee hour after Mass with time to catch up with dear friends – in person!

One thing I know for sure: I want to be in a pew at that time – and I want you to be there, too.

That dream helps me get through some hard days. However, I have started worrying about whether our little parish will still be viable when that vision can be realized. Regular parish expenses continue during the pandemic. City guidelines limit the number of people who can attend Mass and many older parishioners (like me) are staying away to avoid the risk of infection. Collections at Mass are just not keeping pace. (See recent parish finance report here: www.sjog.net/financefy19-20.pdf.) Some parishioners who signed up for automatic online donations continue to give that way and others have mailed checks. The parish is grateful for this faithful support.

[Click here to donate to the St. John of God Year-End Appeal](#)

You probably know that our year-end raffle, begun at least 20 years ago, has been a reliable vehicle to help the parish end each year with a net gain instead of a loss. But the hard decision was made to suspend our annual Christmas raffle this year. Instead we are sending this appeal to all the parishioners for whom we have email or street addresses. ***If you want to be present at a “post-Covid celebration Mass” as described above, can you make a contribution to sustain the parish now?*** I understand you may have lost your job or suffered other economic setbacks, but if you haven’t taken a big income hit, will you consider a generous contribution before the end of 2020?

I have made my own extra year-end donation, giving the same amount I gave last year to underwrite the raffle expenses plus the amount I spent on raffle tickets. It's easy to do it online at www.sjog.net, especially if you have already established an account on the website. Just click on the link above and use the box on the top right of the screen to log in to your account. Click on "add transaction" then scroll down to reach the "year-end appeal" and enter the amount you want to give. If you don't yet have an account on the website and you'd like help to do that, feel free to contact me and I'll try to walk you through the process. Or if you prefer, just write a check and mail it to St. John of God, 1290 5th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94122. Please write "2020 Year-End Appeal" in the memo line on your check. ***And let us know what you are missing most about not being able to go to Mass at St. John of God.***

With love and prayers for health and strength,



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PS If you can't send a financial contribution, ***can you say a prayer for the success of this effort?*** And I'd still love to hear what YOU miss most about St. John of God. Send me an email or give me a call to share your thoughts.