

# Never Isolated in Christ

YOUR ~~WEEKLY~~ SPORADIC VIEW BEHIND THE MASK OF ASSUMPTION PARISH  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2020

*When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said,  
"This is a deserted place and it is already late;  
dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages  
and buy food for themselves."*

*Jesus said to them, "There is no need for them to go away;  
give them some food yourselves."*

*But they said to him,  
"Five loaves and two fish are all we have here."  
Then he said, "Bring them here to me."*

*-Matthew 14:15-18*

## Pastor's Note

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Dear Assumption Parishioners,

I have been reminded this week that, even with a healthy respect for science and medicine, there is still a lot of personal judgement that goes into how we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Everything ends up being a balance, where one approach might be *safer* than another, but we might decide that a slightly heightened risk is worth the benefits of an alternate approach. It was, after all, *safer* to shut down every business, but opening the economy up in controlled ways was worth the increased risk. It is, after all, still *safer* to have our groceries delivered than to go inside a store, but many of us decide that the additional risk is not so much that it makes a difference to us. It is, after all, *safer* to keep children at home than to send them to school, but our parish has decided that we can still keep our students relatively safe and that the benefits of in-person instruction outweigh the potential risks.

Now that we have a better understanding of how COVID-19 spreads, we are better able to manage these risks (with masks, distancing, etc.) even if we can never altogether eliminate them; and each of us is now faced with personal decisions about how much risk we are willing to take for the sake of a perceived good. Is it worth it to travel, for example, to see family out of state? Are we willing to see our elderly relatives (outdoors and socially distanced), even though there is always a chance of spreading a disease that could harm them? Are they willing to see us? When is the right time to come back to Mass?

Again, these are all very personal decisions, based on everyone's own life context. Just know that we are all having to face these difficult balances, and you should not feel guilty if you are slightly overwhelmed by trying to navigate life in this ever-changing world.

May the Lord give you the graces necessary to get through your week!

*J. Moore*

# Parish News

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## Delayed Confessions

Due to a 2:00 p.m. wedding this weekend, confessions on Sept. 12 will begin at 4:00 p.m. rather than 3:00 p.m.

## Fr. Moore is Moving

Fr. Moore decided that his daily scooter commute was too long and arduous, so he will be moving from 211 Kentucky to 2111 Ellis.<sup>1</sup> 211 Kentucky will go back to being a rental, which means certain repair work has to be done before putting it on the market. We are looking to see if there are any volunteers who would like to help with the following:

- Cleaning up (mostly weeding) the back and side yards of 211 Kentucky, possibly laying sod in the side yard;
- Pulling the plaster off of a wall or two in 211 Kentucky;
- Cleaning 211 Kentucky once Fr. Moore moves out;
- Picking up certain furniture for 2111 Ellis (*note: furniture will likely be coming from Craigslist, which requires being "on call" since Craigslist negotiations often require pickup shortly after negotiation*);
- Helping Fr. Moore move his things from 211 Kentucky to 2111 Ellis.

All activities will be masked up and social distanced to the greatest extent possible (unless conducted alone). Please e-mail [frmoore@assumption.org](mailto:frmoore@assumption.org) to be added to a list of potential volunteers, who will be contacted when the time comes. Thank you for considering!

## Parish Financial Update

*As a reminder, Fr. Moore switched our method of financial reporting. Rather than reporting actual income vs. budgeted income, we now report actual income (current year) vs. actual income (previous year). The goal is to see a year-to-year giving increase that at least out-performs inflation. The financial year (FY) runs July – June.*

<u>Ordinary Income</u>	<u>Debt Relief</u>
Current FY to Date: \$159,061	Current FY to Date: \$20,999
Previous FY to Date: \$175,491	Previous FY to Date: \$12,792
Difference: (\$16,430)	Difference: \$8,207

Please note that the above numbers include generous, one-time donations of \$10,000 to Ordinary Income and \$10,000 to Debt Relief. Excluding those, our differences become (\$26,430) for Ordinary Income and (\$1,793) for Debt Relief, representing a 15.06% and 14.02% decrease in giving, respectively.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support our parish generously, even during economic uncertainty, and thank you to all those who have provided extra gifts during this pandemic to help balance out those who are unable to give right now. The fact that we are able to operate anywhere close to normal, given everything going on in the world, is a testament to the dedication of our parishioners.

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<sup>1</sup> Actually, the new house is slightly larger, with a guest room and separate living room and dining room, allowing Fr. Moore to host family, friends, and certain parish events.

# Ways to Give Back

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## Catholic Campaign for Human Development

We will be “taking up” the Catholic Campaign for Human Development annual collection on the weekends of Sept. 12-13 and 19-20. Envelopes are in your packets or available in the church by the Gathering Space.

There are 40 million people in the United States living in in poverty. This collection supports programs that empower local communities to address the challenges they face. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development supports those living in poverty across the country. It identifies and addresses the unique obstacles people face as they work to lift themselves out of poverty. In addition, 25% of the funds we collect will remain in our diocese to fund local antipoverty projects. By supporting this collection, you are giving those on the margins a hand up, not a handout.

You can [click here](#) for more information.

## Bellingham Community Meal

The Bellingham Community Meal successfully served over 130 to-go meals in August and now they are looking for volunteers for September.

They will again be going with a to-go service held outside the gym. Volunteers will be required to check-in outside the back kitchen door where they will complete a pre-screening process, review health and safety protocol, and be provided a mask if they do not have one. Volunteers will be required to wear a mask throughout their volunteer service. Volunteers will also be expected to bring a signed Volunteer Agreement (contact [volunteerbcmp@gmail.com](mailto:volunteerbcmp@gmail.com) for a copy of this agreement).

BCMP will be using Signup Genius for signups so if you are interested in helping out, please go to: [BCMP SignUp for September 26, 2020](#) to see what jobs are available and please sign up. Thank you for considering and for your continued support. We can't do these meals without you!