



December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent

“Don't be afraid, Mary”

Sacred Heart Church Our Lady of Perpetual Help Holy Rosary Chapel



Dear Believers in the Incarnate Christ,

We proclaim Luke 1:26-38 on this Fourth Sunday of Advent. On this last Sunday before Christmas, the gospel and the prayer texts take a slight turn in tone. For these past weeks, we have been reflecting upon the Second Coming of Christ. We have heard the mighty voice of the adult John the Baptist herald the coming of the Kingdom. We have listened to the adult Jesus ask us to be prepared and stay alert. Today, as it is traditional on the Fourth Sunday, the liturgy seems to calm down. No more finger pointing to what is to come, no more loud prophets calling out in the desert. Here we wait for the birth of Jesus. We listen to Mary and to this amazing angel.

I always wait to read about the presence of Gabriel in Advent. I love this angel. His presence and his voice herald a new presence of Christ Jesus. Here, he appears to a young girl named Mary. He voices some remarkable things to this young virgin. Out of the blue, he says to her that she is full of grace. Wow, can you imagine what Mary must have thought about hearing this coming from a creature of heaven? I can't imagine that she knew exactly what an angel was let alone that she was graced, and that God was with her.

The amazing thing about this encounter is that Gabriel reveals that she will carry a child and that his kingdom will have no end. "How can this be...?" is certainly the question of her lifetime.

I have read this gospel my entire life and I still ponder such an incredible happenstance. Luke's desire to give voice and credibility to this young teen, a woman with no cultural power, is beautiful.

Gabriel has more to say. And this statement is also for us, the gospel reader. Gabriel says to Mary, after he reveals the fact of her cousin's pregnancy with John, "for nothing will be impossible for God." This is the miracle of God's presence. This is the miracle of the Incarnation. I believe with my entire being that all things find their common good in God. God's ways are not our ways necessarily, but all will be well in God. All will be well. All things.

This week, we celebrate Christmas. I know it will not be like other Christmases. We will struggle to be in the same room with grandchildren. We will travel less. Even our numbers at Mass will not pack the church. However, we all still live in these amazing words from Gabriel. For nothing will be impossible for God, no matter our need for healing in this pandemic or the economic upheavals so many are facing. We know that all things, even our schooling for children or the boredom of our aging relatives, will be well.

Please know of my prayers for all of you and your extended families this Christmas. This is a tough time for all of you. I have never been in such a difficult leadership position. I know many people are waiting for more at our parish. Yet, we still need to be prudent in our efforts. So, no matter where you are celebrating this Christmas, please feel the prayers of our staff, the goodness of this community and the fidelity of the Word-Made-Flesh. Jesus is here for us in our efforts to rebuild so much of our lives in 2021.

Before I leave this Advent gospel, just one more thing. After all that Mary hears from the Angel, she says, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." This is one of the most important and sustaining prayers in the scriptures. I believe with all my heart that it is the prayer we need to store in our hearts during these painful months. As we ponder the gifts we have been given in God, our family, our friends, our talents and so much more, we too, say Mary's "Yes" to God.

Perhaps this yes is the gift we can give to one another this Christmas. This affirmation will lead us well beyond our own selfishness and into the beauty of God's plan for us as a people. We harmonize with Mary's voice this Christmas. "Yes!"

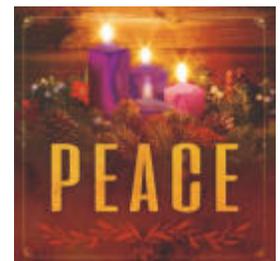
Merry Christmas to you, your loved ones, and beyond. Allow in your hearts, peace to reside.

God give you peace,
Fr. Ron Raab, CSC, Pastor

Join us for Mass!

Saturday, Dec. 19th: 4 pm at Holy Rosary Chapel; 5:30 pm at Sacred Heart Church
Sunday, Dec. 20th: 7:30, 9 & 11:30 am at Sacred Heart Church; 8:30 & 10:30 am in the Parish Center Gym; 5 pm at OLPH

Sign up for Mass on our website www.sacredheartcos.org



Front cover and inside original art by Fr. Ron Raab, CSC

Reflection

Today's gospel from Luke tells us that the angel Gabriel brought Mary news that she was to give birth to the Son of God. This inspired me to think about angels and what they might mean to us.

Traditionally, there are nine orders of heavenly creatures, which are mentioned occasionally in prayers at Mass. From the highest to the lowest they are Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominions, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Archangels, and Angels (which also includes guardian angels).

Three archangels are mentioned by name in Scripture: Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael. Other non-Biblical traditions include such names as Uriel, Camael, Zadkiel, Sariel, Phanuel, and several others, with various spellings of each! Note that they all have "el" in their names, which is the word for "God." Thus, Gabriel means something like "My strength is God." I'll let you look up the meanings of the others.

In Luke, Gabriel announced the births of both John the Baptist and Jesus, and so he became the patron of messengers, broadcasters, postal workers, diplomats, and, curiously, stamp collectors!

How are angels a part of our faith? Simply put, they are an embodiment of God's unfallen creation. They are manifestations of God's abundant power of love. They co-exist with us mortals on earth and inspire us to seek out God in our lives.

As Gabriel did with Mary, angels proclaim the Good News of God's presence in the world. May our own eyes be opened to see the glory of the God who is all around us.

—Fr. Randy Rentner, CSC, Associate Pastor



Christmas Update: Reserve seating is full for Christmas Eve and Day Masses at all three of our churches. *There is no wait-list.* **All are invited to join us for the live-stream of the 7 pm Christmas Eve Mass at Sacred Heart Church on our website www.sacredheartcos.org.**

As a reminder, Christmas is celebrated as an octave in the Catholic Church, meaning Christmas is one liturgy celebrated for eight days from Dec. 25– Jan. 1. We encourage you to consider attending Mass on one of those days if you were not able to sign up for Christmas Eve or Day Mass. You don't need reservations for the 8 am Daily Mass at Sacred Heart, however seating is limited to the first 50 people. The Christmas Season continues until the Baptism of the Lord on Jan. 10. Please remember that during this time, ***all the faithful are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days, including Christmas.***

Also, please note that if El Paso County moves to "level purple" on the COVID-19 dial, all Masses will be canceled at Sacred Heart Parish, including Christmas Eve and Day Masses. We will continue to offer the live-stream of the 7 pm Christmas Eve Mass and the weekly live-stream of the 5:30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass at Sacred Heart Church. Check the bulletin or our website for updates.

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I am deeply aware that this past year has been a struggle for so many people. We have learned to educate our young in different ways. We continue to make our way through the demands of technology, and we miss hugging our grandchildren. We have negotiated work environments and the support systems that help us make sense of life have given way in this pandemic.

No matter your struggles, I am so encouraged and grateful for the ways you continue to offer financial support to our three churches, Sacred Heart, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and Holy Rosary. I thank you all for continuing your pledges to pay off our church restoration at Sacred Heart. Thank you for your donations to the Food Pantry and the upkeep of our buildings. Thank you for your support to build the ramp at Our Lady of Perpetual Help and the sound system and roof and upkeep at Holy Rosary.

As this year ends, I appreciate your prayer and support of our parish communities. You are the mission of the Church. Your presence and lived faith are what makes up the Church. You are gift and hope in our three churches. I am so grateful for your support and prayer for Fr. Randy and myself. I am grateful for your kindness toward our staff. I hold you all in prayer as we end our Advent days and celebrate the Incarnation of Jesus Christ.

God give you peace,
Fr. Ron Raab, CSC, Pastor

Parish News

The **Giving Tree at all three of our churches has ended.** Sacred Heart Church collected

\$11,693 to be split three ways between El Centro de Los Pobres in Avondale, CO, Fostering Hope in Colorado Springs and La Puente in Alamosa, CO. Holy Rosary collected \$210 for the Myron Stratton Home in Colorado Springs. OLPH collected \$508 for a needy family in the Manitou School system. Thank you for your generous support of these charitable organizations!

Join Fr. Ron during this last week of Advent as he **reflects on the daily gospels.** He is providing a daily audio reflection on his blog www.ronaldraaab.com and on our website www.sacredheartcos.com. Fr. Ron is reflecting on the theme **Advent: On the ground of hope.**

We have been offering **Advent Reflections** by different parishioners in the bulletin each week. This last week features Magnolia Babcock. There are also Flocknote videos of the parishioners reading their reflections sent each Saturday. We hope you enjoy these reflections.

The **Parish Office will be closed** a half day on Dec. 24 & all day Dec. 25. Also, closed a half day on Dec. 31 & all day on Jan. 1.

Important Year-End Reminder!

To qualify as a 2020 charitable contribution, your donation must be received in the office by **Thursday, Dec. 31** (if mailed, your donation will be deductible as long as it is post-marked by Dec. 31, even if we don't receive it until January). Donations are considered "effective when received"—checks placed in the offertory in Jan. will **NOT** be deductible for 2020, even if written in 2020 or backdated. To request a 2020 contribution statement, please call the office at 633-8711. Your statement can be sent either by email or mail. Note: if you participated in Online Giving, you can print your statement online. of contributions directly from your online giving account at any time.



Christmas Face Mask Sales: OLPH is offering hand-made face masks decorated for Christmas, perfect for Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers during COVID. One of our OLPH parishioners has hand stitched each cloth mask, and they come in three sizes: Large, Medium, and Children's sizes. They will be available after all Masses (while supplies last) for any contributions over \$10, and the money will be added to our Building Fund for OLPH's upcoming handicap access ramp project.

There are still some OLPH vigil candles available for \$20 donations as well. Call the Parish Office at 633-8711. If you would like to give directly to the OLPH Building Fund, give online at our website or on OLPH's GoFundMe page at <https://gf.me/u/yzsjcm>. Thank you for your support!

Christmas Cards Sold Out: Due to an overwhelming response, the Knights of Columbus have sold out of their Christmas cards featuring a picture of the outdoor nativity set at OLPH. Thank you for your tremendous support. All proceeds have gone to the OLPH Building Fund to help build the handicap accessible ramp and bathroom at OLPH.

AmazonSmile: Sacred Heart Church is still participating in AmazonSmile, a program operated by Amazon that lets customers purchase Amazon products and give back to charitable organizations of their choice by donating 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products directly to the charitable organization. **Visit smile.amazon.com before you shop,** and enter Sacred Heart Catholic Church as the charity of your choice. (Be sure to pick the Colorado Springs location.) You will be redirected to Amazon's website to shop and make your purchases like you normally would.

Due to COVID-19, we will **not host the yearly Alcothon event** that takes place Dec. 31–Jan. 1 in our Parish Center.

Food Pantry Updates:

The Food Pantry will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 24 and open on Thursday, Dec. 31.

The next Food Pantry Volunteer Interest

Meeting is this Monday, Dec. 21 at 10 am in the Parish Center gym. All those interested in volunteering who didn't attend the previous meeting in November should attend. RSVP to Bill at 598-4933.

The Food Pantry has officially reopened and requests **donations of plastic and paper grocery bags.** Thank you to everyone who has already made a donation. Bring donations to Mass or arrange to drop them off at the Parish Office, Monday-Thursday, 9 am-3 pm. As a reminder, **we are no longer accepting parish donations of pill bottles, egg cartons or pots and pans.**

If you would like to make a monetary donation, you can drop off donations at Mass in the collection basket (be sure to mark the donation for the Food Pantry), give online to the Food Pantry at our website www.sacredheartcos.org or mail donations to Sacred Heart Parish Office, 2021 W. Pikes Peak Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80904.

A message of thanks: Last week OLPH Parishioner Michael Parrish traveled to an orphanage in Mexico to bring financial support and supplies. He shared the following message: "I am so pleased with the donations that are coming in. The weekend that I spoke at six Masses we raised \$1,500. Since then parishioners have sent in checks for an additional \$2,200. With money being donated by our Parish and friends of mine we should have nearly \$7,000 to help the children and nuns with essentials. Also 10 iPads were donated to help with their school work. God is so good and I'm so thankful for everyone's generosity. Blessings to all." —Michael Parrish

Ave Maria Press Fundraising Program: Use code SACREDHEARTCOS and the parish gets 30% of your purchase price plus you get free shipping. Visit www.avemariapress.com

Advent Reflection By Parishioner Magnolia Babcock

Hope talk

Hello everyone, and good afternoon! I am Magnolia Babcock. I go to Ute Pass Elementary School. I am eleven years old. My favorite things to do are skiing, going to school, hiking, praying, writing, playing soccer, making new friends, hanging out with my family, and going on long car rides with the windows down.

This summer, I decided to go to a new school because it has an incredible outdoor science program. Going to a new school has been hard, especially when Covid-19 is here. At my new school, I have totally found my incredible group of friends that just make me so happy. All of them love going outside, love their families, and love God. We share all of the same likes in life.

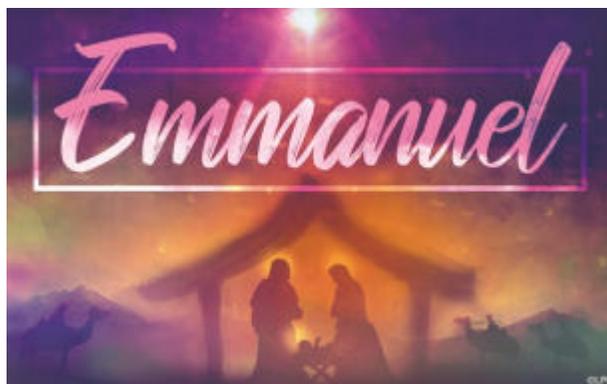
After over a month of being all together, it was announced that our school is switching to hybrid, online learning and cohorts. All of my five new best friends are in the opposite cohort of mine, which means we won't be in school together anymore. When I figured this out, my heart ripped. I had just found my incredible group of people and found where I was supposed to be, and we are now only going to school two days a week. I only have nine kids in my cohort and none of them are my best friends. I wish that I could do sixth grade all over again, without a pandemic, and without cohorts, and without wearing masks, and social distancing. But, that is just a DREAM. If I could change this, I would, no questions asked. But, I can't. There is no way to hide it, and I cannot make or change the rules. It's not what I want, and it's not in my hands... it is in God's. And when it is, all I can do is stand up and hope with Him. This is not a process where God sits down and doesn't need to help. HE IS THERE! Sometimes, I forget. And, when I forget, I don't have hope or a feeling of change. But, when I remember how He loves Us, and how the Lord has plans for Me, and for You, and I remember that good comes out of every bad, I feel a lot better.

Now, I have had an amazing childhood of going to Sacred Heart Parish my whole life. When I was in preschool, I went to church every morning with my mom and it was my absolute favorite part of the day. Even then, I was close with God. Now, you might think I'm crazy to say this, but Covid-19 has made my relationship with God even stronger. It used to be such a busy life! My sisters and I all played sports, went to school, had concerts, went grocery shopping, had parties... I don't know how we did it!! Now that our life has slowed down, I focus on how much I love God.

Mama Mary is the mother of Jesus. She showed a lot to the world: tenderness, bravery, motherliness, caring, and adoration for God. She teaches us a lot. Just like my mom did for me. Mary had to stand up and say yes to having the boy of God. Imagine how scary and nerve racking that would be to have people doubting you and thinking that you were lying. Mary had hope. She was not hoping for something better, she was hoping by knowing that God is with her. She teaches us to have that kind of hope. To stay with God and have him make a path for all of us. Do that when you become unhappy and complain about Covid-19, or anything else that you struggle with... HOPE.

In our Gospel and readings, Emmanuel is used various times. When I read the gospel over and over, I needed to know what Emmanuel meant. It means, "God is with us." I also forget this. And when I forget this most, I am thinking about me. Let me ask you all a question. When you come home from church, do you have a car to get home? Do you have food to go home to? Do you have a house? Do you have all of these things? There are some people that are less fortunate, and have to worry about this. Kids save their school lunches in their backpacks to go home and have a bit of food for the night. People have to beg on the streets for hope. If it is the hope of having a job, or food, or money. And I need to ask you all just one more question. When you go home and find out another thing is shut down, do you have hope? I have to admit, sometimes, I don't. This feels like it is going to go on forever doesn't it? It does to me sometimes. Somedays, I just want to give up, and hide and have Covid-19 just go away. But, I cannot. If we are going to get through this, there is no better way to fix things then lean on God, and share His love. Let us get through this. Let us love God. Let us live in God. Let us Hope in God.

Magnolia Babcock, Sacred Heart Parishioner



Prayer



This Christmas, while you are giving and receiving gifts and hopefully spending time with those you love, may you take the time to cherish the true gift that came to us over 2000 years ago and continues to call us to this day: Jesus. Let us be grateful beyond measure for this gift above all gifts, let us continue on our journey, and let our lives give testimony to the one who leads us.

The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God Mass times:
Thursday, Dec. 31st, 5:30 pm at Sacred Heart Church
Friday, Jan. 1st, 9 am at Sacred Heart Church

Please pray for our brothers & sisters...

Marie and Ann Puterbaugh	Jerri Knoll
Barbara Crane	Gerald Donohue
Martha Tafoya	Paige Kyle
Sr. Roberta Westrick	Carol Peterson
Bill Evans	Jerry Fitzpatrick
Carol Sperry	Scott Defebaugh
Jim Johnson	Michael Ortega
Jeff Somers	Lea Zorn
Albert Gonzales	Philippe DeBernay
Sheri Mauro	Penny
Matt Aragon	Nicole Thompson
Jonathan Knorr	Elizabeth Lambert
Jeanne Flanagan	Jeannie Wellmann
Fran Rodden	Mickey Zay
Ann McDonald	Sharon Oates
Patsy Aragon & Family	Laura C.
Jerry Banks	John Wilson
Tom O'Donnell	Rita Harmes

Readings for the Week of Dec. 20, 2020

Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [2a]/Rom 16:25-27/Lk 1:26-38 **Monday:** Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45 **Tuesday:** 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56 **Wednesday:** Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66 **Thursday:** 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79 **Friday:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 **Saturday:** Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22 **Next Sunday:** Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1] or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 [7a, 8a]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Presider Schedule and Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 19

- 4:00 pm Holy Rosary- Presider: Fr. Randy
For those in abusive situations
- 5:30 pm Sacred Heart Church- Presider: Fr. Ron
For safety and welfare of first responders

Sunday, December 20

- 7:30 am Sacred Heart Church- Presider: Fr. Ron
†Margaret and †Earl McElhaney by McElhaney Family
- 8:30 am Parish Center Gym- Presider: Fr. Randy
†Fr. Gerry Borer by Mary Superata
- 9:00 am Sacred Heart Church- Presider: Fr. Ron
†Regina Rolla by The Rolla Family
- 10:30 am Parish Center Gym- Presider: Fr. Randy
For those experiencing discrimination
- 11:30 am Sacred Heart Church- Presider: Fr. Ron
†Tom Waugh by Mary Superata
- 5:00 pm OLPH- Presider: Fr. Randy
For our homebound brothers and sisters

Monday, December 21

- 8:00 am Sacred Heart- Presider: Fr. Randy
†John Ross by The Ross Family

Tuesday, December 22

- 8:00 am Sacred Heart- Presider: Fr. Ron
For the homeless during the winter by Rita Ague

Wednesday, December 23

- 8:00 am Sacred Heart- Presider: Fr. Ron
For healing, comfort and hope for the sick

Thursday, December 24

- 8:00 am Sacred Heart- Presider: Fr. Ron
For the members of the Congregation of Holy Cross
by Sue Gerlach
- 4:00 pm OLPH- Presider: Fr. Randy
For all the parishioners at OLPH
- 4:30 pm Sacred Heart- Presider: Fr. Ron
†Mario Tellez by Lydia Bowsky
- 7:00 pm Sacred Heart- Presider: Fr. Ron
†Dan Defebaugh by John and Mary Garvelink
- 8:00 pm Holy Rosary- Presider: Fr. Randy
For all the parishioners at Holy Rosary Chapel

Friday, December 25

- 7:30 am Sacred Heart- Presider: Fr. Ron
†John Ross by John and Mary Garvelink
- 8:30 am Parish Center Gym- Presider: Fr. Randy
For all the parishioners at Sacred Heart
- 9:00 am Sacred Heart- Presider: Fr. Ron
†Gloria Aguilar by The Aguilar Family
- 10:30 am Parish Center Gym- Presider: Fr. Randy
For peace and justice in our world

Saturday, December 26

- 8:00 am Sacred Heart- Presider: Fr. Randy
For those suffering from poverty and injustice
- 4:00 pm Holy Rosary- Presider: Fr. Randy

Mission

Mass Times:

Sacred Heart Church in Colorado Springs, CO—
Daily Mass: Monday– Saturday, 8 am, no reservations required.

Weekend Masses: Saturday, 5:30 pm;
Sunday, 7:30, 9 & 11:30 am in the church;
8:30 & 10:30 am in the gym.

Reservations required.

Confessions: Saturday, 9-10 am or by appointment,
call the Parish Office at 719-633-8711

Holy Rosary Chapel in Cascade, CO– Saturday, 4 pm. Reservations required.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Manitou Springs, CO– Sunday, 5 pm. Reservations required.

All attendees are required to wear a mask.

Pastoral Team

Fr. Ronald Raab, CSC, Pastor

EXT. 110 / rraab@sacredheartcos.org

Fr. Randall Rentner, CSC, Associate Pastor

EXT. 103 / AssocPastor@sacredheartcos.org

Roberto Chavez, Faith Formation Director

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Grace Donnelly Communication, Volunteer &
Safe Environment Coordinator

Ext. 111 / gdonnelly@sacredheartcos.org

**Sue Gerlach, Director of Music Ministry/
Liturgy Coordinator**

Ext. 102 / sgerlach@sacredheartcos.org

Jimmy Gibson, Maintenance Technician

Ext. 101 / maintenance@sacredheartcos.org

**Kristin Gustafson, Music Director for Holy Rosary &
Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

hrolphchoir@gmail.com

KC Krumpak, Business Manager

Ext. 106 / business@sacredheartcos.org

Mary Superata, Parish Office 719-633-8711

Ext. 100 / office@sacredheartcos.org



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Our Mission Statement

As a **prayerful** Catholic community of **service** following Jesus Christ's message of **hope and salvation, we make God known, loved, and served.**

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The Parish Office is not open to the public, however the office is open Monday– Thursday, 9 am– 4 pm. Closed 1– 2 pm for lunch.

Call (719) 633-8711 Fax (719) 633-1859

Sacramental Emergency Phone: (719) 659-9481

Email Address: office@sacredheartcos.org

Website: www.sacredheartcos.org

Facebook: www.facebook.com/tricomunity

Sustaining Our Mission

Please remember... the parish depends on your financial contribution, even if you can't attend Mass in person.

Current Fiscal Year: July 1, 2020– June 30, 2021	SH	OLPH	HR
Offertory budget	\$ 600,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000
Offertory year-to-date	272,716	22,287	28,490
NOV. OFFERTORY TOTALS:	\$ 48,273	\$ 4,434	\$ 7,465
Sunday collections	25,084	1,624	4,452
Online giving	23,189	2,810	3,013
JULY– NOVEMBER 2020			
Revenue (see note below)			
General Revenue	\$323,585	\$ 26,751	\$ 33,387
Restricted Gifts/	310	0	500
Expenses			
Operating Expenses	(239,953)	(29,510)	(28,333)
Parish Support of Diocese	(55,029)	(4,697)	(5,124)
Over (Under)	\$28,913	(\$7,456)	\$430

NOTE: Gifts restricted for capital improvements, insurance claims for capital repairs, and all capital expenditures are not included here and will be reported at the end of the fiscal year.

10% TITHE: 4% to parish tithing and 6% to diocesan charities. *Our parish tithes are disbursed by the Pastor based on the recommendations of the Tithing Committee.*



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