



September 2020

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. Through every day of these past weeks and months which have been so challenging, you have never been far from my thoughts and prayers.

Even when we were not able to celebrate Mass publicly, by God's grace we were able to maintain the availability of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to keep our church open daily for private prayer, to be available for sacramental emergencies, and to livestream our privately celebrated Masses each day. For some weeks now, we have been back in church for Masses with fewer than 100 people at a time, observing all the requisite protocols.

As a parish we are remaining strong, and we will always continue to be here for our parishioners as a sign of stability during a tumultuous time, and a refuge of peace in an increasingly cacophonous world.

I want to thank you for your continued support over the past year, which has enabled us to continue to carry forward our mission of faith, worship, and service. The pandemic, as you might imagine, has placed a notable strain on our already lean budget. Fixed costs do not relent, and our buildings and grounds require constant upkeep. The *Annual Parish Appeal* is a very necessary financial life-line for us.

In the past year, through your generosity we converted the lighting in the church from incandescent to LED, and we remediated a significant and potentially dangerous issue with the church's electrical system. We also installed a state-of-the-art livestreaming system, which enables us to broadcast weekday and weekend Masses, as well as weddings and funerals, to those who are unable to join us in person.

Last year, our parish participated in the *We Stand With Christ* Capital Campaign, and last year's Annual Parish Appeal was folded into that effort. Our Annual Parish Appeal returns this year, and our goal, as in past years, is \$150,000.

So, my friends, I ask you to join me in once again supporting our Annual Parish Appeal. There is an enclosed pledge card; remember that this gift can be spread out over the course of several months, and is tax-deductible. It is also possible to make this gift electronically if you'd prefer, through our online giving platform. More information is available at www.stcathtrumbull.com.

It is a privilege beyond words to serve and lead our uniquely special family of faith here at St. Catherine of Siena Parish. I cannot say often enough that you and your family remain in my grateful prayers, especially at the Altar of the Lord.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Joseph A. Marcello
Pastor