

## FROM OUR PASTOR



### Reflect, Pray, Give

This weekend, we will begin a program that asks everyone to reflect on the amount that they give to the weekly parish offertory.

As you reflect on your giving ask yourself these questions:

- Do I have a need to support my Church, or do I give only when there is a need?
- Do I understand that all Catholics have an obligation to provide regular financial support to their parish?
- Where does my parish fit-in, relative to the other ways that I spend my money?
- How much do I give to my parish on a weekly basis, and how much will I commit to give to my parish each week during the coming year?
- Is what our family is giving an appropriate amount as we reflect on our blessings from God?
- Is our family in a position to increase our giving, should we stay at the same level, or especially at this time of Covid-19, are we suffering financial hardship and perhaps need to decrease our commitment?
- If I am not at my parish for one (or more) Sundays, do I make up the amount that I have not given?

### What Happens Next?

This weekend, I will speak briefly at the end of all the Masses about our Fall Offertory Program and why we are utilizing it. Please also see the extended bulletin insert here in this weekend's bulletin that includes a "**FAMILY COMMITMENT FORM**". This insert will also be emailed to all registered households. We ask that in the next two weeks, each family prayerfully reflect on their financial situation and their ability to give and then complete the "Family Commitment Form" for the upcoming year. We ask that all commitment forms be returned in a sealed envelope the weekend of December 5th-6th, by either dropping it in the collection baskets located in the narthex or mailed or dropped at the parish office no later than December 7th.



If you haven't done so already, we strongly encourage all families to consider signing up for eGiving from your computer, smartphone or tablet via **FAITH DIRECT**. You can set up a recurring donation by signing up today by visiting [www.faith.direct/VA105](http://www.faith.direct/VA105), or text 'Enroll' to (703) 570-1535 .

Our parish is able to thrive because of your prayers, and thoughtful support and contributions!

Thank you so much for your generosity and faithful witness. God Bless us all ~ Fr. Bashista

## WEEKLY REFLECTION

### The End Is the Beginning

Jesus mentions war, persecutions, earthquakes, famine, and cosmic catastrophes as signs that will precede his return. These events have happened throughout history. Many times people thought that the end was near. But the world is still here.

Yet, these signs can teach us a great deal. The second coming of Christ is not the last link in a long, positive, straight evolution. To be sure, our task is to try to build up the kingdom of love and peace here on earth. But we will never completely succeed. It is not possible all conflicts will be resolved and all fractures healed.

Only a few decades ago, people lived in an illusion that technical progress would make all the causes behind strife and war disappear on their own. Everyone would have enough to eat, everyone would be fine. Nothing much is left of that illusion.

The closer we get to the end, the greater the confusion, chaos, hate, and war. This is Jesus' view of history. It appears pessimistic, but it isn't. When this old world is over, it is not yet over. Then the Lord comes, and with him a new heaven and a new earth, not built by human hands but by him

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