



# Church of the Presentation

6715 Leesburg Place | Stockton, CA 95207 | 209-472-2150 | Fax: 209-472-0541

November 2020

My Fellow Parishioners,

As we know, the quarantine has changed our lives completely – from our daily living, to our interaction with others, to the way we manage our finances, to how the parish offers Mass, to how we maintain the level of parish ministries. It has definitely been a challenging time. Let us continue to pray and support one another as we try to move forward and try to love God and neighbor as best we can.

Some years ago, this parish made the excellent decision to begin using the biblical word “stewardship” to describe the way we live in this parish. You became familiar with the practice of filling out a “Stewardship Commitment Card” every year, which is a wonderful way for you to indicate how you will participate in parish life by praying, serving and giving. I am deeply grateful to everyone who has helped build up this parish by making these commitments and who have faithfully honored their commitments. In order to continue building up our parish, I ask everyone once again to examine prayerfully your current level of service to God, your prayer life, and your weekly giving, and to make a renewed commitment. We understand and appreciate the fact that this has been a difficult year. However, the saving work of Christ must continue in his Church, and we are all stewards entrusted with the task of making sure it happens. Your efforts and your generosity will add to what is being done by our volunteers and by our parish staff. Our financial situation currently does not allow us to keep our parish staff working at full capacity, and so we need your contributions as well as your prayerful participation to support their work.

Along with the Finance Council, the Pastoral Council, and the Stewardship Council members, I am therefore asking that each individual and family of the parish fill out a renewal card. You will be asked to do so at all Masses on the weekend of November 21-22, 2020. Please indicate the specific ways in which you and the members of your family will support our parish mission by offering your prayer, your service and your weekly offertory giving. Study the list of parish ministries and check the boxes to select the ones that seem interesting to you or to one of your family members. A parish leader will contact you with information about how you might support each of the ministries that you selected. I hope that every household will return a completed Stewardship Renewal Card, including those who are unable to attend Mass and who watch the Mass through live streaming.

I pray that we can get 100% participation in this annual effort to encourage everyone to carefully consider all of the gifts that God has given to us, not just the financial gifts, but also our lives, our families, all that we are and all that we have. Out of gratitude to God, please consider a sacrificial gift of your prayer time, of your energy and talent, and of your financial contributions.

As regards our financial gifts to the parish, each of us must decide if what we return each weekend is enough, too much or not enough to express our gratitude to our God. Based on prayerful reflection, each of us should then decide whether to increase, decrease or continue the commitment we are currently making.

If you have any questions about this program or the parish budget, please call the parish office. Thank you for responding to this request in faith and love.

Prayerfully yours,

Fr. Mark Wagner, Pastor



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## Please Continue to Support Your Parish by Praying, Serving and Giving!

During this difficult year, it might be challenging for us to practice stewardship as before. The quarantine has affected our ability to “pray, serve and give.” Many of us are not able to serve in ministries as before, and some parishioners are not able to give financially as they have in the past because of economic difficulties or because they do not know how to give electronically. Of the three aspects of stewardship, it seems that prayer is the only one that has not been affected. Many people say that they are now able to pray even more because of the quarantine!

Please use the enclosed Stewardship Renewal Card to find creative ways to serve and give.

In particular, we ask that you make a generous financial commitment to help us overcome the loss of income caused by the pandemic. Here is an update on the difficult financial situation of our parish:

|                          | <b>2020</b> | <b>2019</b>  | <b>VARIANCE</b> | <b>PERCENT VARIANCE</b> |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Offertory Income</b>  |             |              |                 |                         |
| <b>July</b>              | \$ 54,994   | \$ 80,862    | \$ (25,868)     |                         |
| <b>August</b>            | \$ 84,287   | \$ 87,910    | \$ (3,623)      |                         |
| <b>September</b>         | \$ 84,160   | \$ 102,571   | \$ (18,411)     |                         |
| <b>Other Income</b>      |             |              |                 |                         |
| <b>July</b>              | \$ 25,601   | \$ 31,094    | \$ (5,493)      |                         |
| <b>August</b>            | \$ 34,930   | \$ 41,424    | \$ (6,494)      |                         |
| <b>September</b>         | \$ 11,798   | \$ 26,837    | \$ (15,039)     |                         |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME *</b>    | \$ 295,770  | \$ 370,698   | \$ (74,928)     | -20%                    |
| <b>Expenses</b>          |             |              |                 |                         |
| <b>July</b>              | \$ 77,597   | \$ 99,703    | \$ (22,106)     |                         |
| <b>August</b>            | \$ 156,766  | \$ 152,657   | \$ 4,109        |                         |
| <b>Sept</b>              | \$ 96,214   | \$ 218,962   | \$ (122,748)    |                         |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES **</b> | \$ 330,577  | \$ 471,322   | \$ (140,745)    | -30%                    |
| <b>NET INCOME</b>        | \$ (34,807) | \$ (100,624) | \$ 65,817       |                         |

\* Income does not include \$48,635 for a one-time Pandemic Fund to which several generous parishioners contributed and is still accepting donations.

\*\* Expenses were drastically cut in 2020: Staff is furloughed, which results in most services and ministries suspended. This crisis mode is not sustainable for vibrant parish life.