



## ST. JAMES PARISH NEWSLETTER

Dear Parishioners & Friends,

For many years St. James Church has stood as a sign of hope to the people of Highwood and beyond. Our hope and hopefully yours, is to have it continue to be that sure foundation, especially during this pandemic.

Now we need to come together and help.

As we are all aware, all public liturgical celebrations including Holy Week and Easter have been cancelled. As of writing, this is the fifth Sunday we have gone without celebrating in our beautiful church, and we don't know how long it will be until we can celebrate together again. We rely on the weekly offerings of the people to continue to minister and serve in our various capacities. Each week we budget for \$3500 in offerings. Since the closures, we are receiving about 20% of our budgeted weekly income. Easter Sunday, which we count on as one of our largest collections of the year, we planned for \$7500. We believe that only a small portion of that will be received. While we strive to be the best stewards of our savings, this presents significant challenges. We are still paying for operating expenses such as utilities, insurance and increased costs in the proper cleaning and sanitizing of our buildings. The need is great, and we are asking for your help.

We realize in these uncertain times; the worry is great. So many people are struggling, and the long-term economic effects are unknown for all of us. We ask that you prayerfully consider if you can still make your contributions to the Church during this time. There are a few ways you can help.

1. Consider giving on-line through Give Central. This can be set up to donate securely on a recurring basis, so it only needs to set up once. **Website:** <https://www.givecentral.org/location/185>
2. Mail in your weekly offertory envelopes. We still receive and process the envelopes which have been mailed in and that is greatly appreciated. Please continue to do this if you wish until the Church re-opens and you can drop them off at Mass once more. Mailing Address: 134 North Avenue, Highwood, IL 60040  
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3. Be mindful of those in need and see how we can continue to aid and support the poor and vulnerable. There are so many out there that truly need our help during this challenging time.

When the COVID-19 pandemic finally ends — and it will end — we'll look back and share where we were and what we did. When that happens, we know what we will say: With supporters like you by our side, and with God's Saving Grace, we rose to the challenge together.

Thank you,  
St James Parish Finance Council