



# Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church

November 1, 2009  
Solemnity of All Saints

Dear Sisters and Brothers of Our Lady of Fatima Parish,

On this Feast of All Saints, we are reminded of the power of community – our relationship to one another as God’s children and our unity as brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. As we celebrate the lives of those who walked this path before us, we become aware that now is our moment in history – a gift from our Creator – to witness to the Gospel in word and in action. For us, this work is uniquely carried out through our parish community.

“See what the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God.”

*1 John 3:1-3*

Our offertory collection remains the sole source of income to support the work that sustains as a faith community and to meet the needs of others beyond our walls. Clearly, this past year has been difficult for many of us. As I reported in October when I shared with you our annual report, the parish has seen a decrease in its Sunday collection. Most parishes have experienced the same decrease. For the past three years at Our Lady of Fatima, each household has been asked to reflect on its financial support and to make a plan *and* a commitment for the coming year. For those parishioners who chose to make this commitment, the support has been unwavering. It is this support that has sustained us as a community and enabled us to weather this period.

Once again, on behalf of the entire community, I ask each of you to prayerfully consider your offertory gift for the coming year. If you have never made a regular contribution, begin now. If your contribution has not changed in several years, try increasing it. When we come to Eucharist, we come to give as much as to receive. Yet, we don’t give in order to receive God’s blessings – we give because we have been blessed already. Understood in this light, our giving becomes our grateful response for what God has done for us. Selfless, grateful giving changes us. It is a powerful, liberating activity that makes us better people and our community a better place. The saints whose lives we celebrate today knew this truth and lived it.

Enclosed is your commitment card and a planning guide which may help you. Many households use electronic giving as a way to help them keep their commitment. An authorization form is included on the back of the planning guide. When you have completed your card and electronic giving form, if applicable, seal it in the enclosed envelope and bring it with you to Mass on the weekend of November 14 – 15. Be assured that your commitment will be kept in the strictest confidence as your offerings always have been. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. For more information about electronic giving, contact our business manager Ron Runolfson at 492-4101 ext. 102 or at [rrunolfson@olfchurch.net](mailto:rrunolfson@olfchurch.net). I thank you for your prayerful consideration. May we continue to grow as faithful stewards of all God’s gracious gifts.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Jack Sewell

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