



Suggested Ideas and Language for Offertory needs in a parish

(ParishSOFT is offering FREE ParishSOFT communication tool with database)

TEACH OLDER DONORS HOW TO USE WEB PLATOFORMS:

- Create a short video that clearly teaches how to give online or use text giving
- Designate a staff member to communicate with them in real time as they go through the process

Social Media Post:

[Live/Recorded messages are best so that the parishioners can view and see their pastor]

- XXX Church Parish is doing all that we can do continue to provide all of our normal ministries to our people via a virtual environment. Check in with us daily (weekly) for a live streamed mass at XX am/pm. In addition, our parish is now offering resources online such as XXX and online giving for those parishioners who so generously feel called to continue to support the operations and ministry here at XXX Church Parish. Visit our website XXXX for more information.
- In an effort to continue the sacrament of reconciliation, Fr. XXX encourages you to visit the parish where he will be offering ...
 - Drive through reconciliation
 - Reconciliation in the cry room/sanctuary etc. to continue our social distancing
- XXX Parish encourages our parishioners to stay informed with what is happening here at XX parish through our website as well as visiting htdiocese.org for up to date resources and information
- Video of Father XX asking for prayer intentions during this time.
 - Please comment below with your prayer intentions so that Fr. XX can keep your intentions in his daily prayers during this difficult time.
- XX Parish is excited to introduce a new way of virtual offertory giving in an effort for our people to continue to support the parish. Visit our website and click XX Button, where you can set up your offertory gift easily. Here are step by step processes you can follow to help you easily navigate the page....
 - ParishSOFT offers these step by step resources.



- We are excited to offer online giving as a way to allow our parishioners to continue to support our parish during this unrepresented time. Join us on XX Date for a live video walking parishioners through how to use the new tool....
 - Link the video on the web for elderly population
- XX parish has been supported by the generosity of hundreds of families each year. Your weekly offertory gifts help our parish operate and offer the many ministries we provide to our parishioners and for that we are incredibly grateful. In an effort to continue that support, our parish is now offering online giving for parishioners who desire to continue supporting our parish ministry and operations. For more information, visit our website at [insert link] and select donate today.
- Kids are home for the next several weeks. Have Priest do a short two-minute video teaching kids to pray, connecting with the youth!

Text/Voicemail Options:

- XX Parish is now offering streaming masses daily [Insert mass info], online resources for your family prayer life, and online offertory giving. All of which can be found on our website or on our social media page at [insert web link].
- Using texting solution:
 - Text XXX for our virtual mass and sacramental resources
 - XX parish is excited to bring our parish online offertory to our website and a new text to give opportunity to give our parishioners an opportunity so supports the operations of our parish virtually. Text XXX to support XX parish today.

Email/Letter:

Dear <Informal Name>,

“Be Not Afraid!” These powerful and reassuring words are the most repeated phrase in Scripture and are found in Genesis and go all the way through Revelation. Why does the Lord say this phrase over and over? It is because, as a loving Father, He wants us to know that He will be with us through everything.

It would be an understatement to say that we are living in unprecedented times for the modern world. The Coronavirus is a serious medical situation, but fear and panic are the real enemy right now. As we move through these uncharted waters I want you to know that I am praying for you, for your family and for the Church.

For the safety of people and to help curb the spread of the virus, Bishop Fabre has cancelled masses at this time. This decree does not dispense us from “Keeping the Lord’s Day Holy.” We should, as Catholics turn to the Lord always, but even more during these difficult times. In this time of crisis I implore you seek the Lord by



entering the Scripture, and through fervent prayer, especially the rosary and Liturgy of the Hours. As the Church suffers through this time of trial please be reminded of what the Lord says about worrying in the Gospel of Matthew... *"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing?"* MT 6:25.

As your pastor I ask that we put our efforts and thoughts into faith and not worry. I invite you to visit our website and social media page where we will stream daily masses, put virtual resources for our parishioners and are now providing online offertory giving to our parishioners who want to express their generosity and share in God's blessings. All of these things can be found online at XXXXX. Let us take this time as an opportunity to come together as the family of God, in spirit and in prayer, to re-establish that our faith is in Him and not in the world.

We, as Catholics, have a strong history of coming together and supporting each other during times of crisis. I have no doubt in our ability to overcome this one as well.

Be assured of my prayers for you in the private Masses that I offer. I look forward to the day when we can gather at the altar for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass as One Body once again.

Sincerely in Christ.

Pastor

Parish Name

Out of office message for parishes:

Thank you for your email. We're away from our desks at the office learning how to work remotely and provide help as we can.

We're live streaming Masses each morning (check out our Facebook Page), having a communal Scripture Reading and Reflection each evening, and even bringing the Blessed Sacrament to your neighborhood.

We have a team of parishioners connecting with each registered household to see if they need anything. Will you be a part of that team?

Please realize this crisis is having an impact on our parish operations as well. PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH THROUGH THE USE OF YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPES OR BY USING OUR ONLINE DONATION SYSTEM. Your generosity is what is making all of these extra and new efforts possible!



If there's anything I can do to help you, please let us know! Please Call. We're returning messages (and emails) as quick as we are able. New information will always be on our website.

Thank you for your continued support!

Your Pastor

Another Message:

Dear XX family members,

It has only been a week since the quarantine, but it feels much longer. There is no manual for leading a parish through a pandemic, and we are faced with tough decisions every day.

As a pastor and shepherd, I wish all of my decisions could be about how to minister spiritually to the flock, and not what expenses and ministries to cut or what staff to lay off.

That is why I am asking all parishioners, if you are able, please keep up with your giving to the parish to help us make up for the loss of our Sunday offertory. You can give online here: <https://www.XXXXX.com> or bring in or mail your gift to the parish office.

We want to especially thank all of you who are signed up for automatic giving, and those who have been sending in their envelopes. Your faithfulness is more important than you can imagine.

We are praying for each of you during this unprecedented crisis. Please know that you can contact the parish office if you have an emergency need. We are still the Church, even when we cannot come together.

Let's pray that the day when we can share the Holy Sacrifice of the Sunday Mass as a family again may draw nearer!

In Christ's light,

Pastor

Message for ALL Communications:

Did You Know?

While masses and events have been canceled due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the ministries of the Parish are still active in the community and continue to depend upon your financial



support. The only change to the life of the Parish has been the elimination of group gatherings.

Ministries continue to meet via conference calls, meals continue to be prepared and delivered to those in need, schools and faith formation continue via virtual classrooms and home assignments, Sunday mass is being conducted and being streamed for your participation, and we continue to provide support to many of the service agencies throughout the area. Our Clergy continue to provide spiritual guidance and daily reflections.

While we navigate these uncertain and unprecedented times, we request your continued financial support either by signing up with Our Online Donation System or by mailing your weekly contributions to the Parish.

Thank you for your continued support!

Your Pastor

A few suggested additional items:

1. Core principals of support:
 - a. Parishioners believe in the MISSION of the organization
 - b. Parishioners have a high regard for leadership of the organization
 - c. Parishioners believe the organization is fiscally responsible
2. Move forward with a RICH CHURCH Mentality, NOT a Poor Church Mentality
 - a. Have a choice and want to succeed, passion for ministry
 - b. Lives mission and service
 - c. Have high expectations
3. Consider giving as DONOR CULTIVATION instead of Moral obligation of giving
 - a. Steward your parishioners, say thank you, communicate with them regularly
4. Things we can do:
 - a. Increase communication
 - b. Communicate the financial impact
 - c. Leverage technology
 - d. Share info and special briefings (EX: "A faithful parishioner/donor just shared \$XXXX with us and we are using this generous gift to do XYZ"
 - e. Develop a short term plan and assign roles
 - i. Your parishioners and staff want to help, give them a task
 - f. Be open to new ideas and try new things
 - g. Stop fearing the ask