

Dear ***,

I think you would agree that the global Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic of 2020 has affected us in ways we could never have imagined, not the least of which has been a radical departure from how we, as Catholics, typically engage in our life of Faith. We have had to find different ways to stay close to our God, but one thing has not changed and never will, and that is that our God has stayed close to us. It is precisely during times of crisis that our Lord makes Himself more present to us so that we are reminded that, in our most vulnerable times, He never abandons us.

As the pastor of the Parish of the Immaculate Conception my prayerful intention has been that, despite this pandemic and changes that have come to our life of Faith, you experience a growth in holiness, and that our God gives you lasting health and safety. And although many have been impacted by the current health crisis, especially the sick and their care givers, we are well aware of the impact the spread of COVID-19 has had on our parish, and Immaculata Catholic School.

Our primary role is to provide for the spiritual and pastoral needs of the faithful, as stewards of this parish and school. And while it may be a bit longer before we can resume public Masses and functions, as followers of Christ we must continue to pray and support the mission of Immaculate Conception.

I write to ask you to assist in helping to recover our parish offertory, which has been impacted greatly by this pandemic and is running about 40% behind its typical pace. In fact, when comparing our offertory from March, 2019 to March, 2020, we have received \$80,000 less in offertory income. In thanksgiving to Almighty God, and all He has given you, and continues to grace you, your family, and our parish and school with, I ask that you please consider using the enclosed envelope to make an additional Offertory Recovery gift, in addition to your weekly offertory contribution. Please include your email address on the envelope too, so that you can be assured of receiving all updates and newsletters from Immaculate Conception, during this dynamic time.

If you do not already take advantage of electronic giving, consider going to our parish website to sign up: <https://www.immaculateconceptionchurch.com/> At the top-right of the page, hover your pointer over "Ways to Give" and select "Online" to start this simple process of giving.

During this time when we are not able to come together at public Mass, please continue to mail your weekly offertory envelopes to the parish office: Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 611 N. Church Street, Suite 101, Hendersonville, NC 28792.

We are grateful for your regular contributions, and for considering an Offertory Recovery gift to Immaculate Conception, in thanksgiving for the care of our Good God during this time of pandemic. Let us continue to pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died from COVID-19, and for the recovery of those who are sick; also, for the strength of healthcare workers and caregivers, and for an end to this health crisis. Please be assured of my prayers for all of you, my dear parishioners, and know that we are here for you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Fr. W. Christian Cook
Pastor, Immaculate Conception Catholic Church