

“the greatest of these is love”

**February 2021 Stewardship Update**

Cathedral Family Members:

We sincerely thank our dedicated stewards for your generosity in 2020. We had record giving in 2020 and what a challenging year it was. Of course, 2021 continues with the same struggles but with hopefully a light at the end of the proverbial tunnel. Your support has been outstanding and along with reduced expenditures, your donations propelled us to nearly achieving 100% of our Operating expenses covered through Stewardship alone.

Stewardship in January 2021 is slightly behind 2020 by 37%. Please remember that we were not in the COVID pandemic in January 2020, so a decline in year-to-year giving is not unexpected. It is important to note that the priority of compassionate stewardship is not aimed solely at collecting money to pay the bills. It is about how we, as a community, can do God’s work with love and compassion. It is less about the parish’s need to receive, and more about our need to give. It is our generosity with the gifts and blessings God has entrusted to us. Compassionate stewardship is an attitude and a way of life. These stories reflect the love and compassion that Jesus has for his people. His compassion inspires and challenges each one of us to live compassionately. I feel we have been successful in meeting these objectives.

Over the past couple of years, our Cathedral has been very proactive in making available many tools to allow you to provide your stewardship gifts even if you are unable to attend services in person. These programs are confidential and are intended to make giving as easy and secure as possible. We recently updated the Stewardship page on the Cathedral website, which highlights more ways to give to the Cathedral. Many of you have fully utilized these services. If you wish to utilize these services but are unsure, please do not hesitate to reach out to Caroline at the church office. Of course, your support is enhanced by your presence for worship (in person or virtually), your prayers, and your willingness to serve in our ministries. It has been heartwarming to see so many of you attend services in person.

Stewardship is an opportunity to examine our priorities and values, to express our thankfulness, to give of ourselves and to grow in grace. It allows us to participate in the work of God. Giving is not a substitute for commitment – it is an expression of your commitment. I offer you my thanks for your dedication to our parish and your participation in Christ’s work of salvation. I pray that we are soon able to fill our Sanctuary in worship together.

Thank You for your support. Whether it be financial or in spirit, know that you are always in our thoughts and prayers. Please remain safe, stay healthy, and may God continue to bless you and your family.

With Christ’s blessings,

*Mike Pantele* – 2021 Stewardship Chairman