

St. Dominic Savio Catholic Church

**14406 – 62 Street NW
Edmonton, AB, T5A 2E9**

01 Dec 2020

Dear Parishioner,

May the Peace of Christ be with you and with your dear ones!

On behalf of our parish team and members of St. Dominic Savio's Parish Pastoral Council, I offer you our greetings and prayers.

These past nine months of the COVID-19 pandemic have been anything but normal. We have had to adapt our lives in ways we never imagined. The isolation and constant change have been difficult to accept. Through it all I have been blessed to be able to communicate with many of you over the phone, through email and social media, and in person. Your faith and resilience have given me strength over these past months. Despite the current situation, it was possible for me, to a certain extent, to be able to share in your joys and to understand your anxieties. I thank you all for this.

During this time, our parish has continued to function and minister to the community. This has required a belief that God is still a strong and active presence in our lives, as well as creativity, a willingness to try new things, and sometimes a lot of patience.

Since June, we have been offering daily and weekend Holy Masses both online and in person, following Covid-19 protocols. We invite you to join us at stdominicsavio.caedm.ca. Weekend Mass is posted online by 7:00 pm each Saturday; weekday day Masses are posted every day by 10:00 am.

We have been blessed this year to see the ordination of Deacon Steven Defer who continues to serve our parish. We have also continued to offer sacramental preparation: we have welcomed 27 children (6 through RCIA) into our faith community through the sacrament of Baptism, 60 children (+ 6 through RCIA) have received their First Communion, and we are planning for the administration of the sacrament of Confirmation in December 2020. RCIA continues both in-person and online, although the number of attendees has been limited. We have had 9 funerals throughout the year and no marriages. We are

now starting our First Communion and Confirmation groups for January, and ask you to contact the parish office for more information. Despite the pandemic, these are still times of grace and are important in our faith journey.

Providing comfort and support to those in care homes continues, and we are grateful for those involved in that very important ministry. We are also continuing our visits to schools and the filming of greetings and Holy Masses, especially those addressed to particular schools. Our regular activities and functions carry on in different ways. We have all become much more competent in our use of technology!

The pandemic has had an impact on our financial situation this year as well. For the period of January 1 to October 31, 2020, our total income is \$238,651.60. We anticipate ending the year at roughly \$282,300, which is about \$52,000 less than we originally budgeted. Included in our revenue as of October 31st is \$21,433.27 from the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy. Our Sunday collections are averaging about \$17,000 per month, including donations at Masses and online. Pre-Covid, we were averaging over \$21,000 per month.

On the expense side, we have spent \$219,305.88 as of October 31st. There are many expenses that are down, including such things as printing costs, custodial services, hospitality, and liturgy expenses like hosts and wine. We also currently have a vacant Pastoral Assistant position. We have two big bills to pay yet this calendar year, which is our final payment to the Archdiocese for the *Cathedraticum* and our annual insurance. We anticipate ending the year at about \$294,000 in total expenses. This will leave us with a deficit of around \$12,000.

If you are able to help the parish financially, there are many options available. To set up automatic monthly payments from your account, please contact Carolyn at (780) 473-4259 ext.3 or email stdominicsavio.edm@caedm.ca. You can donate online using a credit card on our website stdominicsavio.ca/donate, and we also accept e-transfers through CAEDM. Cheques can be mailed to St. Dominic Savio Parish, 11406 – 62 St. NW, Edmonton, AB T5A 2E9.

There are still many things to look forward to: 2020 was the 50th anniversary of St. Dominic Savio Parish! Although we have had to postpone our Jubilee celebrations, we have tentatively set the date for May 8, 2021. We will keep

you informed about our planned events and whether this date will still be realistic.

Earlier in 2020, we created a Youth Advisory Committee. This group has worked diligently to consider the needs of our parish, and what we require to revitalize our youth and family ministry; you may have participated in a relevant parish-wide survey back in summer 2019. The job description for Youth Minister is in the final stages, and we are hoping to post for this position in January 2021. We are also in the process of hiring a part-time Pastoral Assistant.

We encourage you to visit our website regularly at stdominicsavio.caedm.ca and sign up for our email Bulletin to see our Mass timings, sacramental information, links to the Faith Formation Series by Deacon Steven, and other important information about our parish. You can also reach the parish office at 780-473-4259.

In these difficult times, we ask for your ongoing support, whether that is through your ability to volunteer, to donate, or to continue prayers for the health of our parishioners and the success of our parish. St. Dominic Savio Parish remains a strong community, united in faith and love.

Let me conclude by wishing each and every one of you an Advent of Hope and a great celebration of Christmas full of peace, health, and happiness, now and always!

Thank you!

Yours in Christ,

Fr Saga (Sagayaraj Devadoss)
Pastor

