



I am writing to you all on an old clunky keyboard. I say clunky because it makes lots of noise as I type, but it is well worth it because it has the right function and feel for my touch typing. In other words, it absorbs my bad habits and personal shortcuts that I have developed through the decades.

We are living in an age where local congregations are often perceived as the clunky keyboards of society, as in not being practical or compatible with modern technology and the current ways of the world. Obviously, I am biased, but I think the local parish is still the heart of Christian life, where (if we as a parish are doing as we should) people learn how treasured they are by God, how to respond to that divine love, and who else God loves (everyone) and so who we should feel concern for and serve intentionally.

Holy Family consequently has important holy work to do in Fishers, the surrounding area, and beyond. To fulfill what God desires for us to accomplish we need the skills and time of numerous volunteers, and we all thank God for them all. Holy Family also needs the financial support of us all regardless of the amount. Some can give a very limited amount, meaning that those who can give more can help by doing so. We are all in this together, and as Holy Family's only source of income is the parishioners, it is crucial that we all pull together to make Holy Family the place God desires it to become.

I ask you to pray over what God would have you do at this time. No one goes to hell for not giving, but everyone can experience the joy of giving deep in their spirits. On this year's pledge card, there is the usual space for what a person will try to give in 2022 (which is not a contract but a best effort attempt), but also something new - a space to indicate how many friends or family we will invite to Holy Family. Such invitations are a way of sharing the gift that we each have received, of the Holy Spirit shared through Holy Family. So Holy Family is something we both want to support and share with others, like all of God's gifts to us.

Please return or fill out online the pledge card by December 21st.

Holy Family has room for the clunky keyboards of society because we do not look only for the bright and shiny new trends in spirituality and church fashions or expect anyone in church to be perfect. Even as we try to utilize the best current times have to offer, such as live streaming worship on Sundays, we continue to value and lift up the core values of loving God with our whole selves and our neighbors as ourselves, just as Christ and prophets teach us. Please support the holy and crucial ministries Holy Family offers so that they may not just continue, but also multiply.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bruce W. Gray". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

The Rev. Bruce W. Gray, Rector