

Fund Raising Letter from Bill Barrett, Chairman of the Friends, our U.S. 501(c)(3)



Wishing you an early Merry Christmas

It's hard to believe that another year has flown by and a New Year is facing us in five weeks.

In spite of many setbacks and new and changing regulations, our Church has continued to operate and provide parishioners with both on-site and remote services and our weekly island report. This has been made possible primarily by the hard work of Philip, Father Charlie and Father Steve Huber. All have appreciated their hard work and give them a big THANK YOU.

The Church has been prudent in its financial planning and was able to survive last year's loss of wedding revenues and on-island contributions. Our remote parishioners have been very generous during this period; another big THANK YOU.

As you probably know, the Church's operations are funded entirely by contributions and, with the exception of our small endowment fund, we rely on the generosity of our members and friends. Our primary source of funds is this Christmas fund-raiser letter which has usually provided 75% of our monetary requirements. This year's budget assumes a 10% increase in operating costs, which we hope will be met by an increase in your annual giving.

At present the Church plans to continue the remote services online, the weekly email newsletter and the informative and friendly Zoom coffee hours; this is in addition to holding our usual Sunday morning services. Our visiting priest program is working well. Father Steve has worked hard recruiting an excellent group of priests – their many new faces have certainly been appreciated and have contributed greatly to our remote programs. New guest priests are scheduled for this season which should be both enjoyable and exciting.

We are looking forward to the new year and the return of many of our parishioners who were unable to visit the island because of the pandemic; let's hope that no new entry rules occur which could hinder your return. We understand the Bucket Regatta is planned to return this year and we hope to have a Blessing- of-the-Fleet service and reception which we were planning two years ago.

As I quoted in last year's letter: *“Contributing is more than budgets and more than fundraising. It is a spiritual practice, central to our life with God and one another. When we share God's gifts and love, our time, talent and treasure through financial support, we grow in faith and grace and make a difference in our community and the world.”*

We are looking forward to seeing you again in person,

Bill Barrett for Friends