

Hi everyone,

I'm Susie Backstrom, a parishioner of St. John's and a member of its Stewardship Committee.

Thank you for your continued financial support of St. John's during this pandemic. During a time of great personal challenge to every one of you, you have kept St. John's and its ministries going. Because of you, St. John's has been able to continue to support Loaves & Fishes' efforts to feed the hungry among us.

As you know, stewardship consists of our gifts of time, talent and treasure to support the work of God. During moments like these, when we're locked down in our homes, it may seem hard to figure out what a gift of time might consist of. So I'd like to suggest an idea I learned during the recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land led by Mtr. Megan.

At the beginning of our pilgrimage, each of us in the group picked the name of another person in the group out of a basket. That other person was our prayer "buddy". We were asked to pray for our prayer buddy each day during the pilgrimage. We didn't tell anyone who our prayer buddies were.

Well, we can't pass a basket around us now, but maybe each one of you who sees this video could think of another St. John's parishioner and keep that person in your prayers for the next month. You can pick your prayer buddy for any reason: maybe they're ill or elderly, maybe they're living alone, maybe they're young and have had their school/college year interrupted; maybe they're a first responder or other essential worker who must continue to interact in person with the public every day; maybe they're someone you don't know but have glimpsed at a distance in the church or the parish hall.

Any reason is a good reason. Just pray for that person each day. Pray for their health, for their peace of mind, for their ability to provide for themselves and their family. Any kind of prayer is good. And the name of your prayer buddy is yours to keep confidential between you and God. This is something that the younger ones in your household also can do.

This gift will not cost you anything except a few minutes of time each day. St. John's, our church, is not just a place we go; it is something we do and something we are. Our prayers for each other will do much to sustain us and St. John's.

Thank you again for your financial support of St. John's and thank you for listening. Peace be with you.