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THE REVEREND ROBERT MITCHELL, RECTOR

Dear friend of St. Olave's,

On behalf of the *For the Love of St. Olave's* Stewardship team, I'd like to thank you for your generous gifts to St. Olave's this year. And what a year it has been. Though many of you have faced financial hardship due to the pandemic, you have continued to support St. Olave's mission to be the light of Christ in the community.

Even without our normal opportunities to give to the collection plate at Sunday worship, you have adapted and either dropped off your envelopes, mailed in cheques or donated online. For these efforts, we are truly thankful! We also owe a debt of gratitude to the Diocese of Toronto, who covered three months of allotment payments, and several parishioners who significantly increased their givings.

As we enter the season of Advent, we find ourselves making the difficult decision to close to public worship again. The health and safety of our parish and wider community are paramount. We will continue to stay connected to our worship tradition through our beautiful virtual services (found at stolaves.ca/videos), including:

- On Tuesday, December 1, get in the spirit of Advent with "Comfort & Joy," a video of seasonal readings and music from St. Olave's Arts Guild and Friends.
- On Friday, December 18, as students start their two-week Christmas break, view our Junior Church Nativity Play video.
- On Christmas Eve, enjoy our favourite Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols prepared as a pre-recorded service and premiering at 5 p.m., followed by Zoom social time.
- On Christmas Day, view a service of Holy Communion and make a spiritual communion at home.

We also want to stay connected to each other, so take the opportunity to join our Zoom coffee hours and other online gatherings, and to reach out to fellow parishioners.

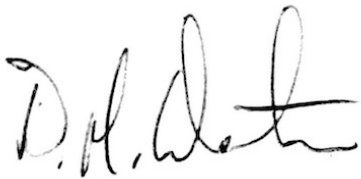
This year, we ask of you three things:

PRAY. Please continue to keep our parish community in your prayers and worship with us online. Prayerfully consider how you can support St. Olave's ministry. Your Christmas gift could put us over the top for 2020.

GIVE. Please use the enclosed Christmas envelope for your cash or cheque offering and drop it off at the church or in the mail. Or visit our website at www.stolaves.ca/giving and make a secure credit card donation through our tithe.ly link, choosing Christmas Gift from the dropdown menu. It is that easy! Or let us know if you would like us to pick up your Christmas offering.

REJOICE. Christmas is indeed a time of joy for all Christians, stronger than any pandemic. As Advent approaches, we will still anticipate the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ with growing excitement. Plan to view our videos and join the Zoom social gatherings as part of your Advent season. May your Advent and Christmas season be enriched with prayer, love and fellowship, be it distanced and safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Weston". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

Don Weston, Chair

On behalf of the *For the Love of St. Olave's* committee

P.S. As always, if you need any support during this difficult time – pastoral or otherwise – please contact the church office at 416-769-5686 or stolaves@stolaves.ca, or contact the Rector directly at rector@stolaves.ca.