

JOHN:

Good Evening,

My name is John Callahan, and this is my wife, Erin Callahan. We have been parishioners here at Resurrection since moving home to Dubuque in 2017, and Erin was previously a parishioner throughout her childhood and attended Resurrection school. We have 4 children, the oldest 3 of whom attend Resurrection school and are greatly anticipating the new building next year. Erin and I are involved as Music Ministers and I am also on the Pastoral Council and Liturgy Committee.

For this Stewardship weekend, I've thought a lot about the importance of Community. I think one of the biggest unfortunate side effects of navigating through the Pandemic over the last 18 months is the fracturing of Communities. I've seen this with children missing out on school and activities. We've certainly missed getting together at times with our family members. Workplaces have been disrupted, and I think that most of us can agree that Zoom meetings aren't quite as pleasant or interactive as face-to-face encounters. This has resulted in a feeling of isolation, loss, and mental health issues for many. I say this as a physician who in no way wants to downplay the seriousness of this infection. But that struggle to maintain a sense of community is real, and has certainly been felt here at Resurrection and in Parishes across the world.

ERIN:

To be a Community means to come together, to care for one another, to exchange ideas, and to give freely of oneself to others. We need parishioners to come together and strengthen this community as we recover from the pandemic. Please pray about your strengths, interests, talents, and treasure to determine how you can add to this community. It really takes a whole community to celebrate mass; from the door greeters, to ushers, to lectors, eucharistic ministers, musicians, the list goes on. That's not to mention the many ministries outside of the mass that allow us to perform outreach to our community members. And as we emerge from this disruptive time, we are often finding ourselves short of volunteers for these responsibilities. I know that as we all pray on our roles as stewards for this Parish, we will become an even stronger community and truly live up to our mission statement: to be a Catholic Community that is a visible presence of Jesus.

Thank you.