

Saint Joseph Cathedral

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June 3, 2018

Dear Friends,

We can definitely count our blessings! We have an outstanding Cathedral Parish family (committed, loyal, generous and faithful); we have a beautiful church (a work in progress); our grounds are beautifully cared for (lots of volunteer hours); the church and chapel are always clean and orderly (again, lots of volunteer hours); the Liturgy is celebrated reverently (great music, readers, servers and decorators); our parish staff is second to none (they go over and beyond the call to serve); our parishioners are diverse (American, African, Hispanic, Vietnamese, young, old, single, married, engaged, joyful, mourning, lifelong Catholics and Neophytes as well as those that span the economic spectrum); and we have inherited a strong and rich legacy that goes back to 1869 (the Cathedral Church, the Chapel, the Rectory, the Library and the Cemetery).

I would like to thank all of our parishioners and visitors for making St. Joseph's what it is, a vibrant Cathedral Parish in the heart of Manchester!

We can only be and do what we do because of the grace of God and the generosity of so many people. Last week the Finance Council met to go over and approve the upcoming fiscal year's budget which begins on July 1st. Our anticipated budget shows a modest surplus which leaves some cushion for those unexpected expenses. I am mindful and appreciative of the fact that this is not something every parish can accomplish. We are doing well because of your giving, our volunteers, our lean budget, and no big surprises!

However, as you are well aware, our church, chapel and rectory buildings are almost 150 years old and require regular upkeep. We have been blessed with the ability to make many needed improvements over the past few years; our church roof has been replaced, an elevator has been installed, the lighting in the Cathedral has been updated, and the chapel has been recently refurbished with paint and new flooring. But there is still more that needs to be done, with a priority on the heating system in the church.

Our staff, our Pastoral Council, and our Finance Council also see and recognize that there is room for growth in our evangelization, faith formation and outreach efforts. Our goal is to help build the Kingdom of God and we continue to seek to increase our efforts in that area. I'm a firm believer that with God we can do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine!

With all this in mind, and with the support of the Finance and Pastoral Councils, I would like to invite all of us to take time during the month of June to prayerfully and intentionally prepare for the new fiscal year on July 1st. The New Testament talks about the importance and benefits of giving. We are to give as we are able. Take time to pray and reflect on the words of St Paul: "Everyone must give according to what he has inwardly decided; not sadly, not grudgingly, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor:7). Pray and think about how the Lord has blessed us and pray and think about what we are giving to the support of the parish. How can each of us strengthen the life of the parish with our time, talents and treasures?

Setting an attainable goal is useful when we are considering what we can do to help. I strongly believe that we have the potential of a weekly offertory of \$10,000.00. Let us pray together these coming weeks to see how we can make this a reality. If you haven't yet signed up for Online Giving, this is a great opportunity to do so. It is a safe, secure and simple way to support the parish.

As your pastor I want to thank you so much for your support! I have so many blessings to be thankful for as the pastor and rector of the Cathedral.

Please feel free to speak with me if you have any questions.

In Christ,
Fr. Jason