

This weekend I would like to thank each and every one of you for giving me such a warm welcome to this wonderful church family of St. Mark's here in Sea Girt. I must admit that I was surprised to witness such an active church community with over 400 volunteers, a hardworking staff and so many active ministries that it keeps our church facilities busy seven days a week. Thank you for all you do here at St. Mark's.

It is October, meaning it is time for our annual fiscal and liturgical presentation. While overall we are on solid fiscal ground, we are running a substantial operating deficit. The parish has added new programs of Adult Faith Formation, Bible Study and outreach to young adults and 7th and 8th grades to name only a few. We are now in the final year of a very successful renovation campaign. Much work has been completed; much work still needs to be done. In the months ahead, I plan to incorporate additional programs to enhance the spiritual development of all those in ministry to the sick, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and others. I would like to reach out to those not coming to church, to the homebound and those who wish to find a loving home with Jesus Christ.

Reality teaches us that to accomplish such goals, it will take an increase in volunteer hours and an increase in financial support. I have reviewed the parish books and it seems over the years our expenses have risen while our weekend collections have remained stagnant. It was a little surprising to see that approximately \$1000 in dollar bills are collected each weekend. Times are indeed difficult, yet God's work must continue.

I would ask you to consider the following course of action for the year ahead:

1. Consider increasing your weekly donation by \$5.00 per week. This would improve our cash flow immediately.
2. Consider the option of direct withdrawal monthly from your checking account or a charge to your credit card. This would maintain consistency in our cash flow.
3. Consider joining our Commerce Bank Affinity Program whereby the bank contributes to St. Mark's Church by making an annual donation based on the average balance of member accounts. No personal banking information is given to the church and there is no cost to participate.
4. Consider donating your Foodtown points to the church by swiping a special card at the food store. Cards are located in the rectory. Money received supports the needy.

I hope and pray that each of you will find it in your heart to respond to this urgent plea. Times are tough but God has bestowed on all of us many gifts. Let us in turn share our God given gifts with one another and our parish. May God continue His blessings on our parish family of St. Mark's now and forever more.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Sean P. Flynn
Pastor

St. Mark's Renovation Projects

Total Families: 470 Families with completed pledge: 396 Total families left with balance: 74

Total pledged:	\$1,238,030.00
Total Payments to date:	\$1,164,544.00
Outstanding Balance:	\$ 73,486.00
Total Spent 2008:	\$ 17,618.04
Reserved anticipated:	\$ 533,452.39 (for when the church/rectory roofs need replacement)

ST. MARK'S FISCAL PERIOD JULY 1, 2007 TO JUNE 30, 2008

INCOME

Collections:	
Weekly Sunday Offerings	\$465,881.65
Holy Days	8,004.00
Christmas	55,685.00
Easter	31,849.00
Special Appeals	29,976.40
Diocesan Appeals	<u>61,684.62</u>
	\$653,080.67
Auxiliary Income:	
Votive Candles	\$ 7,611.95
Poor Boxes	3,515.40
Weddings/Baptisms/Funerals	18,256.00
Misc. Income (Bulletins, Rentals)	<u>25,277.87</u>
	\$ 54,661.22
Parish Programs:	
Religious Education	\$ <u>19,842.00</u>
	\$ 19,842.00
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$727,583.89

EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits:	
Pastor/Vicar/Pastoral Asst.	\$ 67,191.50
Visiting Clergy	14,385.00
Lay	342,250.42
Health Insurance/Pension	<u>80,231.50</u>
	\$504,058.42
Operating Expenses:	
Maintenance/Repair	\$ 39,274.67
Information/Communication	12,562.51
Insurance/Professional Svcs.	2,884.89
Equipment	4,057.07
Office	6,603.62
Travel/Transportation	30,142.08
Liturgical	17,797.15
Utilities	28,166.21
Rectory/Residence Expenses	15,817.57
	\$157,305.77
Parish Programs:	
CCD	\$ 8,819.13
Adult Religious Ed/Continuing Ed	2,453.62
Volunteer/Gratuities/Socials	21,278.49
Other Misc. Expenses	1,458.41
Spanish Ministry	3,059.06
Youth Ministry	1,952.99
St. Rose High/Mercy Center	
Scholarships	17,125.00
	\$ 56,146.70
Diocesan Assessments:	
Ordinary Assessments	58,594.00
Special Appeals	35,117.88
School Assessments	29,611.46
	\$123,323.34
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$840,834.23

Total Operating Income.... \$727,583.89

Total Operating Expenses... \$840,834.23

Operating Deficit.... \$ -113,250.34

Extraordinary Income:

Restricted Gifts \$ 500.00

Other Interest 1,608.68

Bishop's Appeal Rebate 19,187.50

Diocesan Foundation Grant 3,380.00

* Interest on Loans 10,953.00

** Investment Interest 79,370.11

\$114,999.29

Surplus..... \$ 1748.95

*Construction loan to St. Isaac Jogues Church, Marlton \$250,000

** Investment total \$1,597,906.46

- Renovation Fund will be reported on a separate sheet
- Funds not reported on this sheet are Lorette Jordan Scholarship Fund, Social Concerns, Altar Rosary, Holy Name Society and Spanish Fund.

Members St. Mark's Financial Board

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