

St. John the Evangelist Parish
29 N. Washington Ave. - Bergenfield, NJ 07621-2197

Fall 2017

My Dear Parishioners,

I would to thank all those who gave so generously, this past year, of their time, talents, and money, to our Parish. Please keep in mind it is only through your generosity that St. John's Parish and its many programs can continue to do the work of the Lord.

As you can see by the attached Financial Statement, the annual cost to operate our Parish is over \$1.4 million. Salaries and benefits total \$884,000; utilities and maintenance of our facilities costs \$230,000; the Archdiocesan assessment, which includes support of the school system in our Archdiocese, totaled \$201,000 and the various ministries and Parish programs that address both the spiritual and social needs exceeded \$145,000.

Just as our families become more financially strained with the rising cost of health insurance, utilities, taxes, general upkeep of our property, and the cost to educate our children, the parish shares these very same issues. In fact, the Parish realized a deficit of over \$200,000 this past year and \$175,000 the year before. This means that the Parish is unable to pay all of its bills in a timely manner.

St. John the Evangelist Parish is an important Catholic presence in this area. The Parish addresses the spiritual, social, and financial needs of one of the most diverse communities within the Archdiocese of Newark. During this past year alone, our Parish community celebrated 144 Baptisms and 97 Confirmations, witnessed 20 weddings, and held 86 funeral masses. In addition, the Parish gave over \$120,000 of financial aid to Parish families in need through specific donations and the poor box offerings; collected over \$50,000 that were sent to areas that were hit by storms and famine; and \$75,000 of tuition assistance to the students attending Transfiguration Academy, through our Sr. Trinity Scholarship Fund. In order to continue to provide these services the Parish depends heavily on your support and generosity.

In the Book of Sirach in the Old Testament we are told: "In generous spirit pay homage to the Lord, be not sparing of freewill gifts. Give to the Most High as He has given to you, generously, according to your means. For the Lord is the one who always repays, and He will give back to you seven fold." (Sirach 35: 7-10).

A Thought: Have you ever noticed that generous, giving people seem to be happier and more in love with life than those who are selfish and stingy? Is it their happiness that makes them generous or is it their generous spirit that brings them happiness?

Again, I thank you for your support, your dedication and most of all your prayers. Together let's continue to make our Parish all that it could be.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Arnholds, Pastor