



November 1, 2019

Dear St. Mary Parishioners,

Having served as pastor for 10 years now, these are a few thoughts and reflections. First, what an honor to be pastor of one of Mobile's most distinguished Catholic parishes and I am today honored. Also, from its founding more than 150 years ago, I am its first pastor from the City of Mobile.

As a student in St. Matthews in the '50s, St. Mary's was the team to beat. During my days at McGill Institute, it was frequently in our schedule.

To be sure, St. Mary's has seen some change here in midtown, but some of her traditions have prevailed, especially, her commitment to provide leadership within the Archdiocesan Catholic Community.

The cost of living for each of you has increased. The very same is true for our parish church and school. We have tightened our financial belts for the decade I have been here, sometimes for years at a time without an organist/music director; housekeeper/cook; maintenance person, among other things.

While we have also paid off over a half-million dollars in debt to the Archdiocese since serving here and having contributed several hundred thousand dollars to assist in the renovations of the church capital campaign, we currently owe more than \$200,000 in loans for recent property acquisitions for the school master plan and roof repairs to the Seton Center. It was not an easy decision to withdraw \$20,000 from our small stock investment to pay current expenses.

It is obvious that we are in need of a greater financial support from parishioner contributions. We are so grateful to have done so much with what we have received, but from time to time we wonder how we will pay the bills.

God has always answered our prayers and by far, He is our greatest and most generous contributor, but He is asking us all to get more involved in helping our parish family.

Thanking you for all your past efforts to bring us forward, I sincerely ask for your continued help and more if you can do so. Hopefully, we will not compromise on our help to the Lord for His vineyard here at our beloved St. Mary's.

Gratefully in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. G. Warren Wall
Pastor, St. Mary Parish

We have many options for pledges and payments for the 2020 year. Enclosed is a pledge card listing those options including online giving, and auto checking and savings debit options.

Please return your pledge envelope by December 15, 2019. You may place it in the collection basket at Mass, mail or drop off to parish office, or email to mrmaman@stmarymobile.org Pledges allow us to budget for the 2020 fiscal year. You can also pledge and make payments online at www.stmarymobile.org

