

Our Lady of the Annunciation Church

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Dear Friends,

I wish I could call each one in the parish ... realizing that this has been and is a very difficult time for many. People are not accustomed to the isolation and have real fears not only about contracting the virus, but for the future. Each day both myself and Fr. Peter Tkocz celebrate Mass and pray for you.

At OLA, Queensbury we have kept the Church open from 9 am to 4 pm for private prayer. A good portion of the Church is roped off. The open area is sanitized with a disinfectant spray, then wiped down. Please feel free to stop in if you wish to.

As these weeks go forward a **Sunday celebration of the Mass will be posted on each church's website**. OLA – www.olaqueensbury.org and Sacred Heart – www.sacredheartlg.org
At the Sacred Heart Website check out the PHOTO's section for the video. At OLA's website, click on the tab SUNDAY MASS for the homily and link to the Mass.

Like all operations, OLA has an operational side along with the spiritual side. Often times we only concentrate on the spiritual side of our work. I have not done enough to communicate with you what it takes to run Annunciation operationally. ***This is the purpose of this letter to you as we find ourselves in a troubling situation financially.***

I reviewed the expenses with Kittie Troiano and Sheila Gould (parish bookkeepers) for a minimum baseline of our monthly obligations. A quick look at **the monthly expenses** for March are as follows:

National Grid	907.00
Phone, Internet & Cable	368.00
PDS on Demand (Software - Census Ledger Rel Ed data)	207.00
Mahoney Notifier (Alarm)	515.00
Water Bill YTD (Pay Quarterly)	340.00
Lease for Copier & Usage	236.00
Waste Management	171.00
Cathedral Envelopes Mailed Out (March & April)	436.00
Evangelist Newspapers Mailed Out	664.00
Fr. Busch 1/2 Salary (Sac Heart pay other 1/2)	1476.62
1/2 Benefits April (Sac Heart pay other 1/2)	460.00
Fr. Mike - Now Fr. Peter	2834.90
Benefits April	920.80
Payroll 4 Employees (March)	3755.70
Month	13,292.02

BISHOP'S APPEAL 2019

260 pledges/gifts – total amount pledged or given to date

\$63,542.00

This is a significant drop from 2018 which **313 people** gave \$81,680. In the 2017 appeal, **331 people** gave \$85,603.00. For the last 10 years there has been a decline. At the same time, the average amount given per pledge has increased from \$210 in 2010 to \$260 in 2018.

RE-IGNITING OUR FAITH CAMPAIGN

Pledges and gifts	\$403,601.00
Actual Cash received to date	\$117,040.67

The plans for the kitchen renovation project were proceeding along prior to the pandemic – the committee visited other churches with kitchens and got great input into what we need, we contacted an architect to draw up the plans, we were hoping to begin the construction soon.

COLLECTIONS

Since the COVID 19 shutdown we have missed out on **6 weeks of collections**, including the **Easter collection**. From 2018 & 2019 our average **weekly March collection** was 6,905.00 for the month. This average amount multiplied by 6 would be \$41,430. We have received \$15,254 over 6 weeks in mail in contributions and on-line giving – which I am grateful for.

Easter collection 2019 was 12,257.00; Easter collection 2018 was 12,898.00. We received \$4,415.00 for Easter this year, 2020.

For a point of reference, we budgeted \$350,000 for 2019-2020 collections. This amounts to an average of \$6,862.75 per week.

PAYROLL


We have applied for the **SBA Payroll Protection Program**, and still have not heard from the bank. Presently, Marilyn Buehler (Music Director) is on unemployment, Dave Robertson (Maintenance and Janitorial) is working 1 day a week, 4 days on unemployment, Patti Abbott (Rel Ed) is working 1 day a week, 4 days on unemployment, Sheila Gould (Secretary & Bookkeeper) is working 2 days a week, 3 days on unemployment. Alesia Tarbell (data entry) is working 1 day a week.

We understand this national emergency is having a negative economic impact on families & businesses, but our parish offertory is our principal source of revenue to fund the mission of our church. We ask for your prayerful consideration to continue your offertory support either online or mail in your contribution. You can also sign up for electronic giving at our website www.OLAQueensbury.org or a one-time donation at the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany website www.rcda.org

We are at a crisis point financially. The future is uncertain. Anything you can send in will be helpful and **Very Appreciated**. Thank you for your support in the past. Thank you for whatever you can do in the present moment.

This emergency is unique in that it is something we are all experiencing together simultaneously. While we may not see our parish family at Mass each week until this situation improves, on behalf of Fr. Peter Tkocz and myself, we pray that you will become ever aware of God's presence in your life and know of the peace He wishes us to have.

In Him Who Gives it all meaning,


Very Rev. Joseph G. Busch, pastor

One more request – we would like to have everyone's email address so that we can save on postage in the future, instead of doing mailings. Please email your full name to us at OLA1963@roadrunner.com Thanks!