

## Fr. Jason's Wishful Thinking... Annual Financial Report

Dear Parishioners:

As we roll past the July 4th Independence Day Holiday, it is time to look back at the fiscal year dated July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018. This weekend, I offer you a consolidated, four-page report that highlights both of our parishes' finances. That way, we are all on the same page. Over the last few years, we have seen an increased number of parishioners crossing traditional boundaries and attending Mass at the time they like and feeling comfortable about it, and this is a good thing. It shows that our parish cluster has reached a certain maturity that was unachievable in the beginning (in 2003). After 15 years of shared pastoral leadership, we should all be on the same page. We should realize that we are stronger together and can achieve certain goals when both of our parishes can share the cost of something that we otherwise could not afford separately. One of those dreams is a full-time maintenance man, which we recently hired six weeks ago. We move forward together while maintaining unique parish identities and financial systems.

We reached certain milestones in 2017-2018 to be proud about. We constructed a new home for our shared St. Vincent de Paul ministry and St. Joseph's fundraising. St. Vincent de Paul should be moved into their new home by the end of the summer. We fixed a long-time problem of under-funded maintenance for three cemeteries by creating endowments that will earn a higher income and keep cemetery and mausoleum funds preserved permanently as they should be for true, perpetual care. St. Stephen replaced two HVAC systems, one in church and one in the parish hall. We have installed new LED light fixtures, and have a new, upgraded look for the hall, and have prepaid for new flooring that will arrive the week of July 9th. At St. Joseph, we upgraded the four HVAC systems in the new church and they are working more efficiently on separate thermostats and with fixed coolant lines that once had leaks. We installed quiet, efficient HVAC systems in the PSR office, and finally—after 30 years—in the parish hall bathrooms.

We find ourselves in a *blessed* position right now, especially after tragedies that we have recovered from only two years ago. Understandably, St. Stephen Parish operated slightly over budget this year as we are in the middle of a \$42,000 hall renovation that we just paid all the bills for. We maintain substantial savings at St. Stephen and should be back on track with the normal budget in August. At St. Joseph, we had an unprecedented year and operated the parish over \$72,000 in the black, placing assets in the building fund and reaching 100% funding for the new rectory. This great year was a collective effort of increased offertory giving, successful fundraisers, and some generous grants and gifts thanks to a good economy and stellar stock market gains.

We have already paid architectural fees for our new Head of Island chapel, and have obtained donations for most of the religious art that will one day grace the inside of it. As I write this, three stained glass windows are being designed in California. The art has been arriving over the last few weeks and we move forward into an exciting future.

Please look over the financial report and if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask for clarification. Thank you for supporting our parishes in their mission. As we look ahead to this next year, we spiritually focus on a greater appreciation of the Holy Eucharist (e.g. the new Eucharistic Miracles exhibit in the old St. Joseph Church), an emphasis on Bible literacy and building attendance at Tuesday night Bible study, an understanding of the brown scapular and the miraculous medal as sacramentals, and receiving/welcoming St. Faustina Kowalska's relic in November. We are indeed blessed!

Fr. Jason