

SAID ED September 8, 2013

Start up time

School has begun once again and weekly routines return to “normal”. There are kids to drop off at school, sports programs – some to wind down and others to start up. There are lessons and homework to be done. Every household has to make changes when September rolls around and so too our parish shifts gears. The formal education season is here and that means more activity in and around our parish. We look forward to continuing to offer a wide range of opportunities for ongoing Christian Formation and helping each other grow in the ways of faith.

One of the challenges of running a parish of our size, is to find the resources to provide for the many kinds of programming that we do. During the summer weeks our Sunday attendance has been lower than usual as people have come and gone on vacations. Now everyone is returning back home to more normal routines.

You’ve probably noticed that our summer collections have varied up and down as they typically do with attendance. While many people generously make up their offerings when they come back from vacation, I want to call to your attention the fact that our collections have not reached the level that we expect them to attain.

Two years ago we made the decision to move the Annual Stewardship of Treasure from September to January each year. We are staying with that decision at this point, but this week I need to raise everyone’s awareness that we are not making it financially according to our expected income. We will be conducting our Stewardship renewal program in January, but honestly the plate has fallen below expected income for seven out of the twelve weeks of summer, which places us at a current deficit of around **\$7,000**. As people return from vacationing, this figure will adjust downwards, but we need the support of everyone to make sure our parish remains stable and our bills are paid.

As you know, I’m not in the habit of explicitly talking about money because I’m of the firm conviction that if we provide services, hospitality and pastoral care for people, funds and resources follow upon those services. This week however, I want to break from custom and ask everyone to please be as generous as possible to get us back into the positive side of the ledger regarding our good stewardship.

We want to provide the best services that we can, but we need the support of every household. If everyone could give just a little more at this point, it would greatly relieve the financial stress that is upon us. Remember, stewardship is a way of saying “thank you” to God for the many blessings of our lives; it’s a way of returning a portion of our resources to God for the many ways in which God has blessed us.

Today I offer this challenge knowing of your generous hearts. The faith that we have is stronger than any of the problems that come our way, but that faith needs to be supported by our financial resources.

Thanks for your help, have a great week!!
