

AUGUST 10TH-11TH FINANCE COUNCIL PRESENTATION

My name is John Gillcrist and with me is Michael Fuhman. We are members of Holy Spirit's Finance Committee. We would like to take a few minutes of your time today to discuss the 2019-20 budget and the state of Holy Spirit parish finances, but first I want to share 3 church bulletin bloopers a friend emailed me;

1. Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

2. The Associate Pastor unveiled the church's new stewardship campaign slogan last Sunday: "I Upped My Pledge-Up Yours"

3. Ladies of the parish, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

(John) Thirty-five years ago, in the spring of 1984, my family and I moved to Overland Park from Chattanooga, TN. The first Sunday we were here we attended Mass at Holy Spirit. It just happened to be the first Sunday of Masses in what was then the brand new Church. At that time in 1984, the parish had no money. We were a fledgling parish with a huge debt. The parking lot was half the size it is today. We had no athletic field, no playground, no gymnasium, no adoration chapel, no Martha and Mary room, and the sanctuary was not nearly as nice as it is today. But what we did have was a lot of energy, enthusiasm, excitement, and pride for this extraordinary place of worship.

Over these past 35 years, I've watched this parish flourish. I watched it grow. I've grown to know and admire the five wonderful pastors we've had, and the numerous associates, deacons and seminarians. I watched as we added the School of Religion, Knights of Columbus, the Athletic association, the Women of Spirit, St. Gerard's Circle, the parent's association, and many, many other missions and groups including the requisite committees necessary to run a church with 1,700 families.

For many of those years, I'd gone to Mass every Sunday, and at the Offertory, dropped my \$20 into the collection basket. I did that religiously, week after week, year after year, just as I had watched my father do as I grew up. I felt very good about the contribution I was making and assumed that what I was doing, was what everyone did. But somewhere along the line, one of our pastors delivered a homily about stewardship. He spoke about the gifts we all have and that those gifts were all from God and that God says that those gifts are for us to keep, ... except for 10%. He went on to say that the Catholic Church recommends that of that 10% we are to give back, 5% should go to our parish, 1% to the diocese and 4% to other worthy charities performing corporal or spiritual works of mercy. That homily got my attention. I sat in the pew and realized that my \$20/week contribution was much closer to 1% and not anywhere near 5%. And the more I thought about it, the more I knew how blessed my family was and that I needed to acknowledge and show gratitude for those blessings in a more sacrificial way. In other words, my giving needed to be sacrificial. We have this beautiful sanctuary, top-notch school, and wonderful grounds because others before us have made sacrificial offerings. This is a tradition of the Church that is passed down for us to follow. For me, it was a wake-up call to give more to a parish that had provided so much to my family and me.

(Michael) In today's bulletin, you will find an insert that has our 2019-20 Parish Budget. We are budgeting a deficit of \$78,166. We've incurred a deficit for each of the past five years and, as a result, have depleted our savings. The deficits are primarily due to a combination of a decline in giving coupled with some unusual expenses associated with the roof, HVAC systems, and flood mitigation efforts over the past several years. Fr. Ric and his staff have done a good job of mitigating costs and managing operating expenses. There is no opulent or extravagant spending in this budget or past budgets. Just basics.

Over the 35+ year history of the parish, we've incurred some lean times. Money was tight as we started up. Then again, in the early 1990s, we had serious financial challenges. It wasn't until 2015 that we retired the debt on the Church. That took 31 years.

The good news is we now have no debt. The bad news is that we have no savings, ... that giving per family has declined ... and that the number of families giving nothing has increased.

Fr. Ric extends his heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all that are giving. Of the families that do give, the average giving is estimated at only 1.2% of their gross income. In that average, we have many that are tithing at or above the recommended 5%, but many more that are below 1%.

We are asking that everyone pray and reconsider what they are contributing. We recognize that some may not be in a position to give more. But those that are, please do so, ... and those that are not giving anything, please think about giving something.

In today's gospel reading from Luke, Christ says, "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more." God has truly entrusted all of us here at Holy Spirit with an "abundant harvest" of treasures.

Someone said that a parish is not about the money, it is about how the money provides the support for the people, facilities, resources, and missions that allows us to strengthen our faith in Christ.

We have about 1,700 families in the parish, and if every family increased their giving by just \$5 per week, we can meet our projected giving target, erase the budgeted deficit and start to rebuild our depleted savings.

Once again, all we are asking is for every family to increase their giving by just \$5 per week.

Holy Spirit is a wonderful, loving, and Christ-centered place of worship. It is your place of worship. Your Church. Your home for your faith. Thank you for your prayerful consideration, and may God bless you.