



ST. PAUL R. C. CHURCH

Parish Center

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Dear Parish Family,

As I complete my first five months as pastor of St. Paul Church, I am grateful to God for the opportunity to serve here and to become part of your family! There are so many of you to meet, so many wonderful things happening, and so many more great things we can do together for the Lord!

As with all families, there are times when we need to speak of temporal concerns, financial and administrative. I know you are accustomed to receiving a financial statement for the past fiscal year each November, and so I wanted to honor and continue that tradition. Enclosed you will find the St. Paul Financial Statement for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. As you can see, it is a testimony to the generosity of our people, your love for Christ and His Church, and I thank all who contribute in any way to the beauty of this parish family!

I recognize that I am new here at St. Paul, but I wanted to share with you my initial assessment of where we are and where we are going. I realize at one point in your history St. Paul was a "tithing parish." This means that parishioners gave 10% of their income to God (usually 5% to their parish and 5% to other charities as outlined in the Bible as '*God's plan for giving*'). This enabled the parish itself to tithe 10% of its weekly income to others. It seems, however, that many have stopped tithing. While the number of parishioners "registered" increases, it seems that the number of parishioners actually supporting their parish and involved in its life is decreasing. There are all sorts of possible reasons for this being discussed by the parish staff, but it is not my intention to speak of those reasons here. Suffice to say that the past few years have placed St. Paul Church in a difficult situation financially.

As we look back in its history, there was a time when the parish had no debt with comfortable reserves. Today, however, the situation is completely changed: the parish currently has almost \$700,000 in debt with only a small amount in reserve. This debt is comprised of monies owed for parish insurances, medical benefits/pensions for parish staff, and the monthly support all 220 parishes of the Archdiocese send to Newark for the maintenance of the Archdiocesan Center as well as the charities administered through their offices. Each year our debt grows and our reserves decrease. None of you would be able to sustain your homes with this trajectory in place, and neither can your Church.

One of my goals as pastor of St. Paul Church is to insure as best I can that the parish remains a vibrant part of this community, but choices we make today are crucial to the future health of our Church. Before leaving St. Paul, Fr. John McCrone working with our Business Administrator and Finance Committee agreed upon certain staffing cuts that would help bring the budget in line effective June 30, the day before my arrival as pastor. I asked that we defer these cuts for a few months until I could assess the situation myself, but after only 4 months I can see that some of these cuts (and a few others) were unavoidable. They took effect on November 1st and included the following:

(Over)

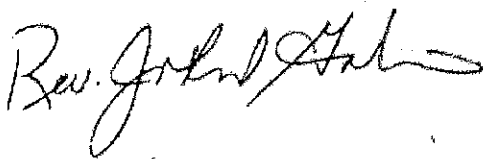
- Director of Youth Ministry position is no longer a full-time position but now part-time;
- Parish Business Administrator position is no longer a full-time position but now part-time; our parish will be sharing John Weiss with St. Anne Church, Fair Lawn;
- Rectory cook has been terminated; Rectory cleaning position hours reduced;
- Parish Maintenance Staff hours were reduced;
- Sunday Sacristans have been discontinued;
- Summer priest help has been discontinued, weekend priest help (Salesian Fathers and Adorno Fathers) have been reduced;
- Parish Office evening receptionists have been discontinued and Office hours reduced;
- Parish Office will be staffed by one full-time person with volunteer help- one parish office position has been discontinued;

It is my hope and that of the Finance Committee that these cuts along with spending reductions where possible will help St. Paul Church to operate with a surplus this coming fiscal year (2016-2017) for the first time in four years. If they do not, then we will be looking at the possibility of further reductions. I truly hope to avoid this, but the life of every parish is always a function of the Stewardship of its people- we will have whatever parish life the parishioners are willing to support with the **Stewardship of their Time, Talent and Treasure**. It is a goal of mine to form a parish **Stewardship Committee** early in 2017 to help each of us reflect on our own personal stewardship. In addition to our financial needs, we have to consider the state of the campus. It is my hope to 'resurrect' the **Buildings and Grounds Committee** to help us in this regard. Both the Church and the rectory have significant issues we need to address. In addition, the parish needs to begin dealing with its debt while increasing its parish reserves so that our future will be secure.

As with most parishes, a tiny portion of parishioners support the Church on a regular basis, and the regular giving of this small group keeps the Church going. Every few months the parish sends out "envelopes" to 2,200 families, yet only about 300-400 families use them at any given time. It costs the parish almost ten thousand dollars yearly to send envelopes to parishioners who do not use them. Therefore, we will begin to pare down our lists, removing those who never use envelopes, and encouraging others to use Faith Direct online giving regularly for their contributions to the parish when possible, and discovering other ways to get envelopes to those who desire to use them.

All this being said, I believe there are many reasons for hope here at St. Paul. There is still much generosity here in the parish, and in time I hope we can get the parish back on track. It is my hope that every parishioner will take the time to pray about their own commitment to their parish, and if you can be a part of helping your parish become healthy again, I ask you to prayerfully consider doing so. No pastor creates a parish from his own desires, rather through his service he tries to create the parish the people tell him they desire by their participation in every area of parish life. What do you want your parish to be? Where would you like to see it grow and expand (if, in fact, that's what you would like). The priests and lay staff will do our best to serve and help create the parish you desire. May we work together to ensure the proclamation of Christ's Good News in our community for many years to come!

In His love,



Father John D. Gabriel, Pastor.

ST. PAUL PARISH
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2015 AND JUNE 30, 2016

REVENUES

	<u>June 30, 2015</u>		<u>June 30, 2016</u>	
Collections				
Sundays & Holidays	1,003,446		978,988	
Christmas	131,638		122,567	
Easter	70,205		74,518	
Maintenance	<u>29,135</u>	1,234,424	<u>36,674</u>	1,212,747
 DONATIONS				
Restricted Gifts		83,188		51,409
 Additional Revenue				
Other		<u>248,075</u>		<u>307,823</u>
 TOTAL REVENUES		1,565,687		1,571,979

EXPENDITURES

Salaries & Benefits	901,936		798,821	
Contracted Services	164,833		119,156	
Plant Expenses	102,947		54,065	
Utilities	107,794		96,371	
Supplies & Equipment	242,902		176,404	
Archdiocesan Assessments	162,632		235,560	
Charitable Donations	63,804		80,615	
Other	<u>109,152</u>		<u>114,523</u>	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		<u>1,856,000</u>		<u>1,675,515</u>
 EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER(UNDER) EXPENSES		<u>\$(290,313)</u>		<u>\$(103,536)</u>

St. Paul Church Statement of Current Assets as at June 30, 2016

Cash Balances in Operating Accounts, including Social Concerns, Payroll and Charity Accounts	\$56,834
 Cash Balances in Savings Accounts	<u>128,933</u>
 Total Available Funds at June 30, 2016	<u>\$185,767</u>