

St. John the Evangelist
2254 Massachusetts Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02140
Tel. 617-547-4880 E-Mail info@stjohncambridge.org

October 7, 2020

Dear Parishioners of St. John's,

Our parish, much like every other in our Archdiocese, has dealt with the burden and sacrifice of the Covid 19 pandemic over these now many months and we continue to pray in gratitude for the goodness that you have shown in supporting our efforts to maintain and grow our parish. Each October we submit for your perusal a summary of the profit and loss and the budget versus actual summarizing our financial position and indicating our need for your continued gifts. This year's statements include the reality that we have had a drop in regular collections because of the reduction in Sunday Mass attendance. While electronic and Online Giving continues to grow, for which we are very grateful, but we still have a need for increased gifts. Thankfully, St. John's did receive a forgivable PPP loan from the government which helped maintain staff and pay utilities, the diminished collections continue to put a strain on the parish.

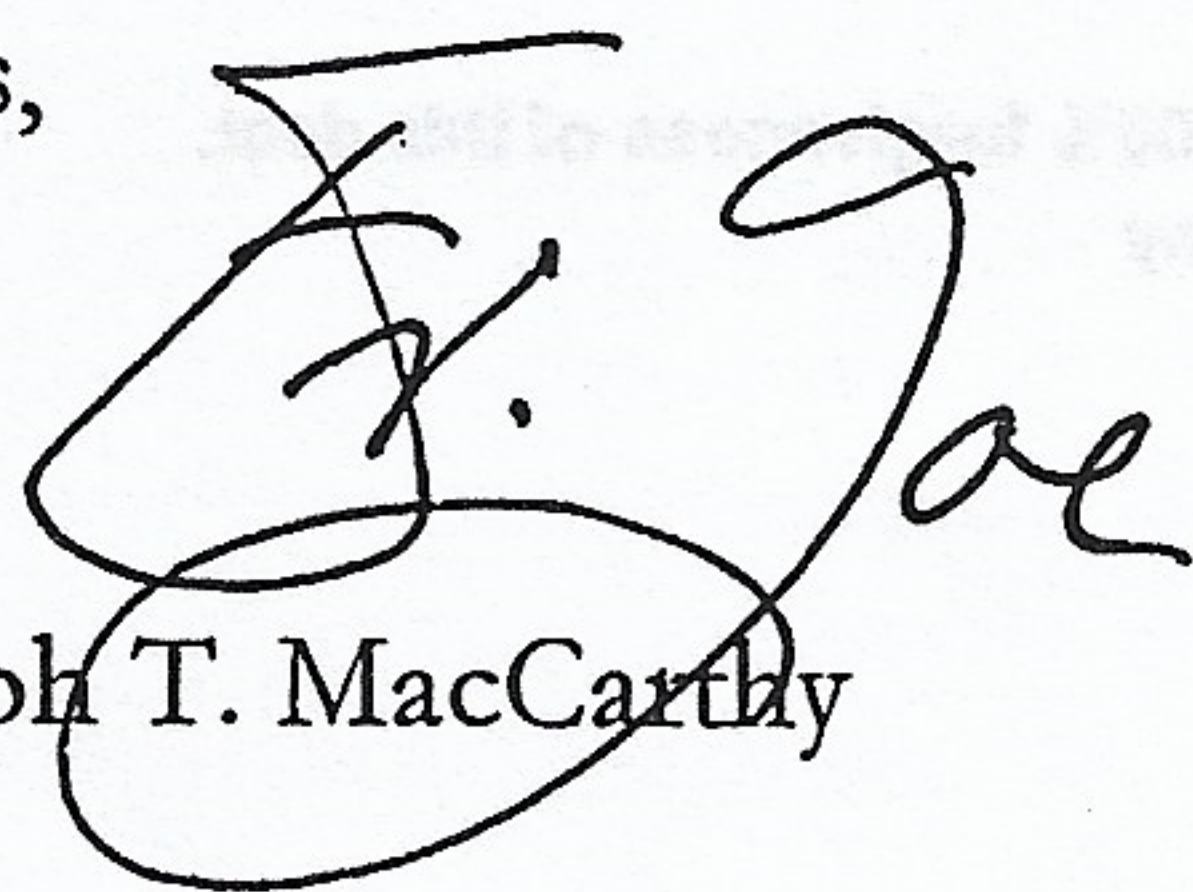
We are no longer able to rent our beautiful parish hall, a burden that lessens our accounts by more than \$10,000 a year. We have seen a dramatic drop in donations for parking lot use which produces a burden of \$9,000 a month and we await a winter perhaps unlike that of a year ago with an increase in snow removal and other costs. We cannot hold our traditional Turkey Shoot or our beloved Christmas Fair, both of which provide needed funds for our yearly expenses. We will hold our \$10,000 Drawing in January, running it virtually and hoping for the participation of many. Perhaps you would consider the purchase of a \$100 ticket as a Christmas gift to yourself or those you love. As you know, support for the \$10,000 Drawing provides needed monies for the operation of the Parish.

I have worked hard to maintain the positions of all employees, in part possible because some have suspended their pay for months in the pandemic. There is good news as well. Some parishioners have made large one-time and recurring gift to the parish in awareness of our need. Many have continued to give with regularity and generosity even as they find it best not to attend Sunday Mass. In addition, I have tried to cut costs wherever possible (as was necessary from the time I arrived) while maintaining staff.

All of this is to say that we are very grateful for your continued support and we look forward with hope to your generous contribution to our Grand Annual Collection, a vital part of the life of our parish and the lifeline that you provide. Our spiritual home which is Saint John's provides so much for so many people and families and has continued to do so even during Covid 19. Families have been comforted by funeral liturgies offered in prayer for their loved ones. Young families have celebrated the birth of a new baby with the gift of faith offered in baptism and the Sunday and daily Eucharist continues to nourish us with the Bread of Life. It is your generous gift to the Grand Annual Collection which allows and encourages this hope and goodness.

Please consider a generous gift to this year's Grand Annual and know that all of your gift remains here at Saint John's for its life and growth. Last year, we asked each family to consider a gift of \$300. Some will be able to give much more, some less, but together we can make our goal of \$32,000. Envelopes have been provided by mail in your regular packet or you can give electronically. Either case will provide us with life and hope for the year to come. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your presence here, your sense of the welcome we provide and your generous support. It is my hope and prayer that everyone stays safe and healthy as we continue to navigate in these difficult times. Thanks and go with God!

God Bless,



Rev. Joseph T. MacCarthy