

**St. John the Evangelist
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Cambridge, MA, 02144**

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October 6, 2022

Dear Parishioner's,

The Fall, like Carl Sandburg's fog, seems to come on little cats feet but after it does, it arrives carrying an announcement of the satisfaction of all things necessary to encourage our parish to not only survive but to thrive. Saint John's has emerged from the burden and loss of the Pandemic to announce our continued faith in Christ and commitment to His message and mission. The fiscal year ending in June of 2022 brought with it no real and burdensome expenses that depleted our stores beyond capacity but, as you know from your own family home economics, prices have been raised to an unexpected level and the cost of human living and doing is becoming greater with each day. Such situations are lightened by the message of hope which is that of the Person of Jesus announced and proclaimed by those committed to His Church. It is that hope which is the drapery and comfort wrapped around our necessary request of satisfaction which is the Grand Annual Collection.

Each of the four years and more that I have enjoyed serving in the Name of Jesus here and have asked for your generosity in this regard, we have achieved our goal and, in fact superseded it. It is our hope that we can anticipate a great response again this year. Our parish goal for the fiscal year 2023 Grand Annual is \$35,000 and we anticipate a need for each parish family to give \$350.00 to the cause. The upcoming fiscal year anticipates a new organ being placed in the choir loft, new bulkhead doors for the outside of the Church, and, eventually an examination of the extent to which the Church windows will need to be secured and or replaced. This is not to mention the regular expenses of running the parish and satisfying daily needs. We know that there are some who cannot afford to give the amount suggested and that there are others who can give much more. We ask you to prayerfully consider a gift which is offered not only from your excess but from your own need. Such is the Christian way of charity.

Remember too that we outlay 18% of our regular collection as a tax for Archdiocesan services as well as 6% in support of Archdiocesan schools. All this and more necessitates a request that you give generously to our Grand Annual Collection, the outcomes of which remain entirely in the parish for its regular operation. Thank you for your gift and God bless you and you families.

Sincerely in Christ,
Fr. Joe MacCarthy