

It is my privilege and pleasure to offer you a report on the state of our venerable and wonderful parish of Saint John the Evangelist for the year 2023-2024 and to give you a financial summary of budget versus actual and profit over loss described on the back of this letter. Our sacramental index indicates a stable celebration of Masses including funerals and Sunday celebrations which maintains numbers of over 60 for the former and the usual three per weekend for the latter with the total Sunday population being an average of 250 people per weekend attending the 4:00 p.m. Saturday, 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. on Sunday.

We offer Religious Education to a very small student population of under ten as well as a steady population of those seeking to be brought into the Church through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. The Haitian parishioners celebrate Sunday Mass at 4:30 p.m. and offer numerous opportunities for prayer, sacrament, and worship throughout the week. The weekly collection averages over \$4,000 for the English Masses and over \$1000 for the Haitian celebration. The Haitians maintain their own Religious Education and as well offer a vibrant Youth Group inclusive of weekly gatherings and Vacation Bible School. Advent and Lenten Retreats are offered for both the Haitian and English speaking communities and both Men's and Women's Spiritual Groups gather in the English-speaking community. Benediction is offered for any who would come on Friday evenings and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered each Saturday before the 4:00 p.m. Mass. Very few marriages are celebrated throughout the year but many come to have marriage paperwork and preparation completed for sacraments that will be celebrated elsewhere in the world. Collected monies are supplemented by the rental of both the parking lot and the beautiful parish hall as well as sacramental offerings, candle and Mass supplies such as flower offerings, bread and wine donations, and others.

The financial state of the parish needs improvement and an increased giving campaign will be undertaken this fall. In recent months we have found it necessary to reduce staff hours and to cut back on necessary spending for repairs and supplies. The purpose of this letter, as well as offering an outline of the parish state, is to request the generation of a Grand Annual Collection the proceeds of which will supplement our Regular and Special Collections and so satisfy needs. We ask every family to consider a minimum gift of \$500 to the Grand Annual, with a total goal of \$60,000.00. Knowing that some can give much more and some can only give less. We thank you for your gift to the Grand Annual and promise continued prayers, both through the intercession of Saint John our patron, and by the grace of Jesus Christ whom we believe as Lord and Savior.

God Bless and many thanks for your generosity.

Fr. Joe