2 FROM THE PASTOR



Father Oakland
Drawn by an SJS Student

Last weekend Fr. Randy and I asked that you prayerfully consider your gifts to the parish in the year ahead and fill out a pledge card. This helps us budget, but more importantly, it helps you budget. As being a disciple shapes every aspect of our lives, that must be true of our wallets as well. All we have is the Lord's, it's just a question of how much we use for ourselves; how much we give to God and invest in continuing his work and mission in the world; how much we give to others, especially those in need; and how much we give to Ceasar. How does Jesus impact your budget? How is your love of God reflected in your budget? If all we have is the Lord's, the sacrifice is our true gift.

The current budget structure at each of our parishes, when our currently open positions are filled, isn't sustainable. Each parish needs a 3-4% increase in collections, and that doesn't include any additional staff or funded programming we would want to have. The historical deficit structures at two of the parishes along with fixed cost increases of insurance, property taxes and water runoff, utilities, etc. have been challenging to overcome. The loss of a Sunday Mass impacted St. Joseph attendance and corresponding giving. Collections are down 8% at St. Joseph and 9% at Mary Queen of Peace over the last five years, while they are up just under 1% at Our Lady of Sorrows. Thank you for prayerfully considering whether you can help us on our path to sustainability by increasing your giving by this much, or more, mindful of others who aren't able to or who even will be giving less as their circumstances change. Increases to revenue are a much-preferred path to sustainability compared with continued expense reductions which can't but impact ministry and mission.

Please remember – these are just pledges. If you are changing your gift and you give electronically, you have to log on and change your gift – the federal government doesn't allow us to change your financial gifts. And for those at MQP, a reminder that we are changing our online giving platform. If you haven't created a new account with PushPay and deleted your old account, please do so now.

Online Pledge Cards

Our Lady of Sorrows

St. Joseph

Mary, Queen of Peace

***Note: There is a problem with the coding in the PushPay Online Pledge Card. If you enter an annual amount and select weekly, it will divide the total by 53 instead of 52. Please disregard the error and focus on the annual total.*