



Parish of The Transfiguration of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ St. Dorothy and St. Thomas Churches

Dear Friend in Christ,

November 1, 2025

With the arrival of Autumn and the turning of leaves, we come to our Grand Annual. As we all know, this Appeal raises essential revenue to help us pay for the additional costs associated with Winter. Thank you for your previous support, which seems to provide just the right amount to get us to the Spring with a balanced operating budget!

Unfortunately, as you may have gathered from my Mass announcements and bulletin entries, our Offertory (which includes the Grand Annual) is unable to meet the full expenditures of the Parish. I am specifically referring to major facility repairs, which have been funded in the last several years out of savings. Cutting into savings adds to our deficit, but perhaps more importantly it gives us a false notion that we raise enough money to keep the Parish viable. We do not.

Any capital improvements we make (apart from routine maintenance) become our deficit. Our savings are now almost totally depleted, but we still have to address necessary capital improvements at both churches--the failing air conditioning at St. Dorothy Church being the most pressing. In addition, it would be nice to improve our community by, for example, establishing a Eucharistic Chapel in the unused section of St. Thomas Church. These improvements will need to be done all the while maintaining our usual winter Offertory income.

In short, this year our Grand Annual needs to include a small Capital Campaign to raise funds for impending facility repairs IN ADDITION to the normal budgeted Grand Annual amount of \$85,000. I am hoping to raise \$250,000 total for future expenditures. I want to sincerely thank all who gave a sacrificial donation last year and ask you to consider DOUBLING that amount this year in order to bring our revenue in line with our true expenses. In accordance with that goal, I am personally pledging \$1000 to this year's Grand Annual.

Many people do not realize that when a parish has a deficit, the Archdiocese does not make up the difference. Like any household we just bear the loss. The good news is that in the last year we have reduced our operating expenses, rededicated our efforts toward fundraisers, and have not taken on any loans or debts. Unfortunately, we are facing future debt expenses if we do not raise additional funds for facility maintenance. Please be generous to this year's Grand Annual appeal and thank you in advance for any gift that you can offer on behalf of those who rely upon the Parish of the Transfiguration.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Darin Colarusso
Pastor