

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

In the Spring of 2020 we applied for and received a PPP Loan (Paycheck Protection Program) from the government in the amount of \$109,000. This loan enabled us to meet payroll and pay our parish utilities over an eight-week period ending June 15, 2020 and provided much needed funds for our last fiscal year which ended on August 31st. We recently submitted the application and paperwork required to request that the loan be turned into a grant. We are waiting for a response to this request.

st

On October 1 , I sent a letter announcing a “Financial Recovery Campaign.” As a result of the

pandemic and the closing of the public celebration of Mass, we experienced a significant decline in regular contributions, which was affecting our ability to fulfill our mission and to offer the services we usually provide to our parishioners and to others who come to us for help.

In an earlier letter I remarked that if the level of contributions continued at the level that they had been during the shutdown, we estimated that we would be \$181,000 short during the present fiscal year, which runs from September 1, 2020 through August 31, 2021. Hence, the decision to hold this Financial Recovery Campaign.

As part of the Campaign I asked each parishioner to prayerfully consider the following:

- 1) Making a “One-Time Recovery Gift” to the Church, especially, for those who have not sent in contributions since this past March.
- 2) A request to each of our parishioners to prayerfully consider increasing your regular contributions to the church in support of St. James.
- 3) Encourage everyone to move to giving on-line: weekly, bi-weekly or monthly, instead of by using the envelope system or the use of cash. This would assure that everyone’s regular contributions would be made to St. James should you be away.

To date, 236 parishioners (9%) have generously responded providing onetime gifts of almost \$50,000. We also have had a number of parishioners increase their regular contributions and others who have agreed to on-line giving.

I am truly grateful to all those who have already responded to this special Financial Recovery Campaign. Your responses are truly making a difference.

If you have not already responded to the Financial Recovery Campaign might I ask you to do so. We are still experiencing a significant shortfall. Certainly, as Thanksgiving Day approaches, all we do to support our parish is one way of thanking God for all his gifts, including, the gift of our wonderful parish.

In whatever way you and your families are observing Thanksgiving this year, know that I am sending you prayers and words of my heartfelt gratitude to you for being part of our parish family.

