

## A NOTE FROM THE PASTOR

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

**Financial Report:** Today I am releasing in this bulletin (see page 6) a copy of our Financial Report, a *Statement of Routine Operations*, which represents the financials of our parish between September 1, 2020, and August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. I am grateful to the members of our Finance Committee for their assistance in its preparation. The members of the Committee are Joseph Fennessy (the Committee Chair), Christopher Pendergast, Jane Harris Cordova, Eileen McMahon (the Parish Bookkeeper), Matthew Antonucci (Parish Trustee) and Julie Rodetis (Parish Trustee and Executive Administrative Assistant).

The role of the Finance Committee is to offer me advice on the appropriate stewardship of the parish's financial resources. This was particularly helpful to me during the many months we have been navigating our finances during the now twenty months of the pandemic. With their advice and assistance, we petitioned the United States Government for two PPP Loans (Payroll Protection Program), which were both turned into grants and the Financial Recovery Campaign we held, reaching out to you, our parishioners, for a one-time significant contribution to assist us during this time due to a significant decrease in the regular contributions being made to our parish.

Please note that the majority of the monies that you regularly contribute to St. James Parish goes towards meeting payroll and benefits and towards the payment of parish utility bills.

I want to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to them for their on-going assistance and advice. Most especially, to you, our parishioners who are so generous in supporting the mission and ministries of St. James Parish.

**Thanksgiving Day:** For some, perhaps this Thanksgiving you will have the opportunity of spending this holiday together as a family for the first time. That is just so wonderful! I have so many heartwarming memories of Thanksgivings that I spent with my family over the years. There's just nothing that compares with families joining together for a holiday meal, sharing stories and laughs and just being together.

**Thanksgiving Day Mass:** If your schedule permits, I invite you to join us for Mass on Thanksgiving Day at 9:00 AM. What an appropriate way to begin our celebration of Thanksgiving by offering prayers of gratitude to Almighty God for all the blessings we have receive from Him over the past year.

Please let me take this opportunity to express my sincerest gratitude to Fr. Francis and Fr. Mariusz for the assistance they give to me in offering our priestly service to you. Thanks also to Dcn. Rick Brunner, Dcn. Chris Daniello and Dcn. John for the significant contributions they make through their generous service as our deacons. A special word of thanks to our parish staff: Alfred Allongo, Lucy Creed, Thomas Galvin, Mark Antonucci, Daniel Sweeney, Eileen McMahon, Julie Rodetis, Anne Darcy, Eileen Mistretta-Brancazio, Rosemary Bunzel, Mary Bergin and Lauren Canavaciol. I am truly blessed with each of the members of our parish staff, who assist me with my responsibilities as the pastor of St. James Parish.

Finally, thank you to all our parishioners, especially, those involved with ministry or volunteering in some area of parish life. Together, we are making St. James Parish the wonderful parish family we are every day. God bless you all!

