



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

October 2019

My dear parishioners,

This month I want to share with you a very concerning situation – the financial health of the Cathedral parish and its impact on our programs and staffing. Last month the Parish Finance Council met and discussed this situation at length.

Projected 2019 – 2020 Deficit

Historically, the largest and steadiest source of income to the Cathedral has been parishioner giving, including planned and recurring electronic donations, as well as offertory giving and sacramental donations (e.g., weddings and baptisms).

Over the past three years, however, we have seen a steep decline in giving. To date we have bridged the gap between falling income and rising expenses by a combination of dipping into our Operating Fund and delaying payments. The Operating Fund balance is now dangerously low. This year's budget includes projected income of \$2,642,429 and projected expenses of \$2,733,991, **yielding a deficit of \$91,562.**

In the first two months of this fiscal year, we are already \$60,000 below expected income levels.

I cannot overemphasize the seriousness of this situation.

Broad Parishioner Support is Needed

To meet this financial crisis will require an immediate and concerted effort on the part of all, ranging from efforts to immediately increase parishioner giving, to some form of a long-term giving campaign, to making additional expense cuts where possible. It is my hope that we can avoid cuts to our pastoral programs and staff, and instead reach deep as a parish to give more.

If 600 parishioners who currently give no identifiable gift were to donate just \$30 per month for the remainder of this fiscal year, we would see a \$180,000 income gain! When we look at it in terms of a parish-wide effort, it does not seem such a daunting task!

It is true that we have many very generous donors. For them we are so very grateful! Also true is that for many years, fewer than one-third of our parishioners have given an identifiable gift in the course of a year.

The only way we will resolve this crisis and establish sustainable support for our mission as a parish is through **consistently broad participation. Each must give as he or she is called as a good and faithful steward.** Some can afford to give more, others less. **We can ALL PRAY—our prayer warriors especially! Together we can meet this challenge.** For what you can do, thank you! Muchas gracias!

Members of both the Finance Council and the Parish Pastoral Council will speak to us about our financial situation in November. **Remember, if each of us does his or her part—whatever that may be—we will solve this financial crisis and emerge stronger than ever!**

Thank You for Your Prayerful Consideration

I humbly thank you for your continuing support in so many ways. We do so much for others at St. Matthew's—parishioners, visitors, and our Central Business District neighbors and community. God willing, we will continue our mission. I ask all of you—fellow parishioners—to prayerfully consider your giving levels in the context of what is at stake.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions to share, please don't hesitate to call or email me. Thank you and God bless.

Stay Connected and Spread the Word!

Website www.stmatthewscathedral.org

Facebook www.facebook.com/st.matthews.cathedral

Twitter [msgrjameson](https://twitter.com/msgrjameson)

Instagram [stmatthewsdc](https://www.instagram.com/stmatthewsdc)

360° Virtual Tour tour.stmatthewscathedral.org

Gratefully,



Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson