

Scott's Corner

Thank you once again to all of the parishioners that “stepped up to the plate” (no pun intended) and increased their regular giving in an effort to boost our income so that we may continue to provide first class liturgy and programs to all. A quick glance at the collection summary will show that this past week’s collection was an increase of 9.43% over the same weekend last year and an increase of 20.74% over the prior week. We certainly are not “out of the woods” yet, but with your continued generosity, we will be successful. As I reviewed the results from this past weekend, once again I was awe struck. I honestly believe that Fr. Glackin has instilled in our parish family a true sense of the definition of stewardship. While stewardship is a combination of the three T’s (time, talent and treasure), we have never had to concentrate on the treasure aspect. The understanding was that if we focused on time and talent, the treasure would take care of itself. During this incredibly difficult time, we are going to have to work to build on our treasure so that we may once again allow the time and talent to take center stage.

Many parishioners have asked about the need to hire an outside firm to manage an increased offertory program here at St. John the Evangelist. As many of you know, I still manage the finances at St. Agnes Catholic Church. Last November, we incorporated a similar program at St. Agnes using the firm recommended by the Diocese of Venice. The results of the program were very successful. We had a participation rate of over 25% of registered families and recognized an increase of nearly 30% in regular offertory giving. After conferring with the finance committee and based on the initial success of the speech given by Bill Wright and myself on September 27 & 28, we have decided to initially forego hiring an outside firm. Unfortunately, this means that you will hear from us again in the near future to follow up on our original presentation. As season progresses, Bill and I will update the congregation from the pulpit on the progress made with regards to our “in-house” increased offertory giving program. We will also generate several mailings which will be sent to all registered parishioners updating the status of our program. In addition, I will include in Scott’s Corner on a random basis, statistical information regarding many different financial aspects of our operation.

In order to provide accurate statistical analysis regarding regular giving by our parishioners, it is imperative that those giving use their envelopes. Believe it or not, of the 5,200 families that are registered at St. John the Evangelist, less than half that amount (2,524) actually used their envelopes in the prior fiscal year (July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008) in order to contribute. In preparation for the next envelope mailing (January – March), we are going to purge those families that had no activity from July 1, 2007 through September 30, 2008. Many families will simply register with our parish in order to have their child baptized or for some other sacramental purpose with no intention of ever attending Mass or supporting our parish.

Just a few statistics about those that use envelopes: The weekly average using 100% of the envelopes for offertory purposes is about \$9.00 per week. The first 89% of those using envelopes or 2246 gave \$616,271 in this past year for an average of \$5.25. Thus the remaining 11% gave \$39.00 per week on average. Using Bill’s comment from two weeks ago about two happy meals or a couple of glasses of wine, if the 2246 or 89% of the parish increased their giving by \$4.50 per week, our collection would increase by \$525,500. If the remaining 11% just increased by \$10 per week that would raise an additional \$144,500 for a total of \$670,000. That would certainly cause us to **NOT** hire an outside consultant. We are aware that some can do more and some have difficulties. What ever you do in His name is appreciated.

The final “Glackin Classic” golf tournament is only ½ full. There are a total of 88 spots available and I am confident that we can fill the remaining spots prior to the tournament on October 26th. Considering the poor state of the current economy, some have said that the increase in price (\$175) is contributing to the lackluster turnout. Whether this is the case or not, I would love to see a full field for this tournament in his namesake. As of this weekend, we have two weeks remaining to fill the field. If you are able, please join us to celebrate twenty years of great golf tournaments that Fr. Glackin has provided.

With the return of many of our seasonal residents, I will again make a reminder for those that may have forgotten. If your intent is to help us reach our Catholic Faith Appeal goal, please make your check payable to the CFA and not St. John the Evangelist. Please include St. John in the memo line so that we will be properly credited. I have had numerous checks returned over the summer because they were made payable to St. John

with no mention of the CFA. Thank you again for your generosity in supporting the Catholic Faith Appeal. We have only 20% of our goal remaining with three months to go.

The Religious Boutique is now open for “season” at St. John. The volunteer staff has worked very diligently stocking the shop in preparation for the holidays and beyond. Please see the bulletin for hours of operation and make the short walk to the Claussen Family Center to take a look.

In His work together,

Scott Schlossberg, MBA
General Manager