

November 20, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

We pray you and your family are well. Over the past 20 months, we have been weathering a storm, and many continue to deal with the effects of COVID-19; the pandemic is not over. We keep in prayer all who have been impacted by this dreaded virus. As the Advent Season is quickly upon us, we raise our hope in great anticipation of the Nativity.

Our community has seen many changes since March 2020—in-person worship was canceled; Masses were streamed over the internet; community outreach was diminished; families could not meet for Faith Formation. June 2021 brought additional change for the St. Michael's community—Fr. Ligato and Fr. Chichester were transferred from St. Michael's to other parishes. Thankfully, Deacon Bob Sweeney, Deacon Nick Ascoti, Fr. Mackey and visiting priests were able to minister to us and continue sharing Eucharist. With the help of lay leadership, along with our many volunteers and our patient and understanding parishioners, we were able to “keep the lights on” and serve our community's spiritual and pastoral needs.

The pandemic brought many financial challenges to families, businesses, and our parish. We want to be transparent and share key points about our fiscal health. Our weekly offertory revenue for the 2019-2020 fiscal year (July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020) was \$307,649. Thank you! The offertory revenue during the height of the pandemic, fiscal year 2020-2021 saw a decline to \$273,112. Thanks to the generosity and perseverance of our parishioners, St. Michael's saw only a 12% decrease in offertory revenue from the pre-pandemic fiscal year. This is admirable considering the circumstances. We are grateful for your sacrifices.

The following is a snapshot of the overall financial vitality of St. Michael's parish:

	<u>2020-2021 Actuals</u>	<u>2021-2022 Budget</u>
Collections*	\$ 334,699	\$ 302,750
Other Income	\$ 143,322**	\$ 70,260
Total Church Income***	\$ 478,021	\$ 373,010
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 249,535	\$ 217,193
Program, Services and Supplies	\$ 108,992	\$ 105,816
Maintenance/Repairs	\$ 189,414	\$ 125,013
Total Church Expenses	\$ 547,941	\$ 448,022
Deficit	-\$ 69,920	-\$ 75,012

\*Collections includes weekly offertory, holiday and capital improvement collections.

\*\*Includes one-time events: \$43,040 for the federal Payroll Protection Plan, \$19,780 for Insurance claims reimbursement and \$8,900 from NYS for land taken for the rotary project.

\*\*\*The Income excludes Interest and Dividend Income and Gains(Losses) on Investments.

Our 2021-2022 budget was built in September 2021 based upon all known factors including personnel changes and reductions in expenses due to renegotiation of contracts for service. Our expenses have been thoroughly scrutinized. However, over \$64,000 of our expenses, including our insurance and Catholic school assessment, are non-discretionary, and \$44,000 are for contracted services such as snow plowing, lawn care and heating/AC maintenance. We have been diligent about the ongoing maintenance of our building facilities to assure that necessary repairs are done promptly while getting multiple bids to assure the best price. We have very dedicated volunteers including those who have stepped up to support our parish with building and maintenance work, gardening, office support and Faith Formation leadership. These generous individuals have saved our parish considerable money and we extend our sincere thanks to all who volunteer to help St. Michael's and our parish community.

Over the past three years, we have needed to withdraw money from our investment account to meet our parish's expenses. While we are fortunate to have our investment account, we cannot continue to use these reserves for operating expenses. In consultation with the Finance Ministry, we believe we are in a stagnant revenue phase because of the pandemic and a decrease in parishioners attending Mass. We feel we can regain pre-pandemic levels over time. We cannot do this alone and need your help to maintain the rich spiritual and social life we have come to expect in our parish.

For the last two years, the Diocesan Appeal amount was a goal that St. Michael's did not meet. This shortfall was forgiven by the Diocese. However, this year, St. Michael's assessment is \$64,502 which, if not met by the contributions of parishioners, will need to be paid to the Diocese from parish resources. The Diocesan Appeal is underway with information being sent directly to parishioners' homes. We ask you to prayerfully consider what your family can afford to do to support the good works of our Diocese. If you did not receive a mailing from the Diocese, please contact St. Michael's Office. It is critical that we meet our parish assessment this year or we will need to pay any shortfall out of our investment reserves.

We invite you to have a family conversation and prayerfully consider your current stewardship and whether you can afford to give a little more each week. We also request that you consider an electronic giving option, which will provide more consistent revenue for St. Michael's while allowing for more accurate projections of collections and reduced costs for offertory envelopes.

Feel free to contact us with questions or concerns. We are in this together and will work hard to grow our community.

Thank you, and may God bless you abundantly.

Your Trustees

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