



Holy Cross Catholic Church

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December 17, 2018

Dear Parishioners,

From the very beginnings of our parish in 1829, many people have taken to heart the words of scripture, "Put your gifts at the service of one another" (1 Peter 4:10). Parishioners have served the spiritual and community needs of our diverse parish family. We can be proud of the Holy Cross legacy that each of us benefits from today.

We continue to grow today and the challenge for us is to share our gifts as the Catholic Community at Holy Cross just as so many parishioners have generously done before us.

As we near the end of the second quarter of our fiscal year and despite the generosity of so many, we continue to find ourselves with a shortfall in our weekly Sunday Offertory Collections. The gap, now over \$42,000, can be attributed to several factors. There are 774 active families and households in our parish. We have no record of giving for 47% of the active parishioners. Additionally, a number of our generous parishioners have moved away or have died.

Just like your family, the spiritual needs of our parish are constantly growing and changing. And just like your family, parish buildings constructed decades ago are in constant need of repair and upgrades. We cannot continue this way and provide all the programs and ministries we have come to expect in our parish.

The Parish Finance Council decided to undertake an increased offertory initiative to secure our ministries and buildings for service for future generations. The program we are using is a home grown one. We are not contracting an outside company to do it. Two defined goals are to increase the recorded giving in the parish to at least 80% and increase the actual Sunday offertory by 20%.

To reach these goals we need your help. I am asking you to prayerfully think about your offertory gift. We have enclosed a prayer card for you to use as you reflect on your stewardship to Holy Cross. The weekend of January 19-20 will be Commitment Weekend. Please visit our website for more information on the increased offertory.

I hope you will put your financial gift at the service of our parish so that we can continue to build and be church together. Thank you for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Fr. Ken Rush

Rev. Msgr. J. Kenneth Rush, Jr.

Pastor