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## SAINT PAUL'S PARISH

### A Note from Fr. Kelly Regarding our Care of the Parish

**October 8, 2023**

If I had won the Megabucks Billion last night, I would not have to be standing here. But no such luck!

I ask you to think about the great event welcoming Bishop Barron a few weeks ago: 900 people at Mass and 1,000 at his lecture. I'd like you to consider the dozens of couples we prepare for marriage each year; the dozens of baptisms; the thousands served in the confessional, and, through the Parish Food Pantry. Our extraordinary music program with the Adult Choir at the 9:30 Mass, the Boys and Schola of St. Paul's Choir School at the 11:00 Mass, and the newly-formed Schola at the Sunday 5:00 Mass. We have a daily 8:00 Mass and a sung noon Mass with trained servers and choristers.... likely the only place in America where this happens. Certainly, the only Catholic boys Choir School in America. Our youth served in Religious Ed and Confirmation. Our variety of lectures and workshops and Mornings of Recollection. 16 small discipleship prayer groups. Our robust ministry to the Harvard University community. Our stellar Harvard Catholic Forum. For the past two years we had 32 candidates in RCIA; this year it has begun with 50! Think of the Young Families outreach and ministry to the homebound and hospitalized and the Advent and Lenten Luncheons for the homeless. Remember our small but mighty staff, always punching way above its weight. Look around at our beautifully renovated but now 100-year-old church.

Our challenge is not only meeting the cost of our programs, but also attending to the physical needs of our entire property: parts for the boiler recently came in at \$2,000; painting and fixing the courtyard doors was \$1,500, security cameras were \$1,200, candles, communion hosts were \$5,000, roof repairs at over \$10,000, a new door for Mary's Room at \$3,000. Repairing church gutter leaks was \$1,700.

Brick stair repairs were \$5,700. Property and medical insurance each year is \$353,400. The annual budget for the parish is about 1.1 million dollars. The Catholic Center is \$750,000 and the Choir School is 1.3 million. You get the picture. I am grateful to our top-notch Finance Committee and Manager of Finance and Operations who oversee it all with great care, attention to detail, and a vision for the wider picture.

We are blessed to welcome many new people every year, and so for new and long-time members, I'd like to mention a few things that can really help us to be faithful stewards. We invite you to get involved. We invite you to strengthen our parish.

The more people who sign up and *use electronic giving*, the better for everyone. Easy access is on the website and on the cards in the pew racks.

If everyone could think about their weekly offering. We are asking you to consider our *25/52 initiative*. *Become a new donor at \$25 a week, 52 weeks a year*, or increase your existing commitment by that amount.

I am asking that you also prepare prayerfully for our *Grand Annual Collection* which will take place in November. More information will be coming.

Finally, I want to thank the group of *Young Professionals* who have approached me offering ideas and assistance in planning a course forward. When they realized that our weekly collection is only about \$6,000-\$7000, with nearly half of that provided by a handful of parishioners, and they see nearby parishes with far less activity regularly realizing \$10,000-\$12,000, they better appreciated their responsibility. We all must support both spiritually and financially the work of making St. Paul's a vibrant place of worship and encounter with Jesus Christ and one another.

Visitors, students, young, old, single, married, retired, those putting in 80 hours a week and those praying for retirement: thanks for your consideration and your sacrificial giving.

God bless you.