

St. John the Evangelist Church
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October 28, 2010

My Dear Parishioners,

No one is more generous to us than God. God has given us life, He has blessed us with the gift of faith, He has given us this world to be our home, and He has sent His Son to be our Savior. In return, God expects us to be generous: with our love, with our time, with our resources, and with our talents. I can only imagine how pleased God is with this wonderful community, and I know how blessed I am to be able to serve such a faith-filled Parish. Please know that the on-going and unselfish giving, of your time, talents and contributions, enable us to do the work of the Lord here at St. John's Parish.

Attached is a brief comparison of our normal operating income and expenses. The spiraling cost increases in medical benefits, coupled with utility expense, has far outpaced the area's inflation rate. However, through constant cost control in other line items and, of course, through your generosity, we have managed to meet our normal operating expenses, without substantially depleting our reserves.

The annual cost to operate our Parish is nearly \$1.4 million. Salaries and benefits total \$765,000; utilities and maintenance of our facilities cost another \$240,000; the investment in our Academy, to support Catholic education, was \$132,000; this past year's Archdiocesan assessment totaled \$115,000; and the various ministries and parish programs, that accommodate both the spiritual and social needs of such a diverse community, exceeded \$100,000.

Prior to these last two years, many felt that money gave them a sense of security and independence. Perhaps that's why some found it so hard to let go of money, especially when letting go seems to bring no tangible advantage. But giving money, to our Church, to the poor, and to other charities, reminds us of something very important. It reminds us that security is found in God alone. It reminds us that no one is independent. All of us are dependent upon God and responsible for one another. Perhaps these past two years are a reminder of what is really important in our lives.

On behalf of the entire parish staff, I cannot begin to thank you enough for your support, dedication, and, most of all, your prayers. As I have said in the past, "Together, let's make St. John's Parish all that it can be".

Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Arnholts - Pastor