

## St. Anne Parish Financial Update (as of September 2021)

The past few years, the Covid-19 pandemic has challenged society across the world. Despite the difficulties that many have faced during this time, we are thankful for the progress that has been made in developing vaccines and reducing the isolation we have experienced.

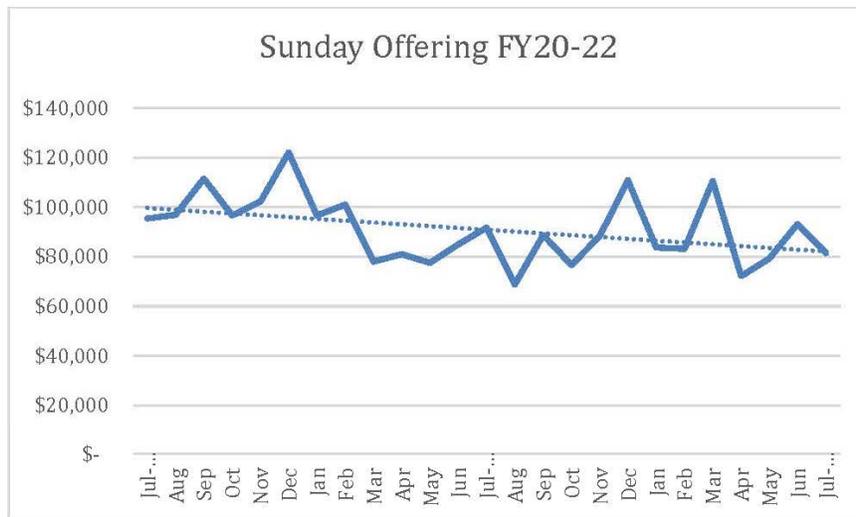
The restrictions on gatherings have impacted the sense of community that our parish provides. Fortunately, isolation requirements have eased somewhat, and we have more opportunities to gather. Hopefully, things will continue in the direction of enabling more safe gatherings.

We are thankful for the sustained generosity of parishioners during these difficult times. The Finance Committee has continued to monitor parish income and expenses. Sunday offerings (whether by envelop or electronic donation) are the primary source of parish revenue.

The graph below shows that the Sunday offerings over the past few fiscal years has decreased. Sunday offerings vary by month (because of the number of Sundays in a particular month), and they are approximately 90% of the 3 years monthly average.

We hope that you will continue your generous financial support of our parish, and we cannot thank you enough for your past contributions.

Over the past couple of years, the electronic giving program has enabled many parishioners to donate in a more convenient manner. In addition, tax changes a few years ago enabled some elderly persons to make charitable donations directly from their Required Minimum Distributions (RMDS) from their retirement accounts. We hope that you will consider these opportunities to continue your financial generosity during these ever-changing times. Thank you again for your continued generosity.



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## WHAT REAL GIVING LOOKS LIKE

The Gospel invites us to give from our livelihood. It can't be about the number of zeroes on the check or on the price tag. It is not about comparing amounts. It is about a sharing that comes from our very selves. I love the month of November when we come together and reflect on our blessings. We celebrate Thanksgiving and we usually pay attention to the needs of others. Through the efforts of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, the Knights of Columbus, Hesed House, and the Kendall County Community Food Pantry, the needs of others are brought into focus for us. It is so good for us to do that.

Livelihood is a word that raises to the surface of today's Gospel. When I think of giving from a place of sacrifice, from my livelihood, I think about what is most precious to me, my time. How do we give the gift of time to another? How do we find it within us to shut off the electronics and be attentive? How do we make the extra effort to connect when there never seems to be enough time? We can all find ways. For some, to go enjoy a meal or a conversation without checking the latest text or email can be difficult. How often do we hear our dining companions say, "Sorry! I have to take this call."

A few weeks ago I was golfing with my niece's husband. We were talking about the upcoming Christmas season and how great it will be to have my sister, who is the grandmother of his children in town. We spoke of the blur that Christmas can be and then he said something that challenged me. He mentioned he was trying to spread the message to all of the family that his kids do not need any more stuff. He explained what they really need are experiences and that it is better to give them the gift of creating a moment than something that will become outdated or thrown away. Then he put the challenge to me. While it is easy for me to send a check, or buy a book, how special would it be to take some time to actually cook with my little grandnieces? Or, if I do decide to give them a book, what if I actually took the time to read it to them?

As we look at blessings, may we look to giving of ourselves, from our livelihood. The most precious gift is giving the gift of time, first and foremost to God, and then to the ones who surround us in life.



Father John Ouper