



**LOOKING FORWARD  
WITH HOPE  
December 2023**

**St. Joseph, Husband of Mary**

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Pastor

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Las Vegas, NV 89117



## LOOKING FORWARD WITH HOPE

The end of this month will make it exactly six months I started my ministry in this our awesome parish as your new pastor. My overall experience has been that of overwhelming support and appreciation. Our parish is truly blessed with many good, willed people. I personally feel so privileged to serve you.

In this letter I would like to articulate what we have achieved together so far and our vision and mission for the future. This is in obedience to my commitment to transparency and accountability and in line with our mission and vision as a family.

### *Vision*

*“A family of faith called into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, grounded in the virtues of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary.”*

### *Mission*

*“We are family of Christ, welcoming, sustaining and evangelizing in the spirit of St. Joseph, Husband of Mary.”*

## SUSTAINING ADMINISTRATION

Teamwork being our mantra saw us forming a Pastoral Team made of the Pastor, the Parochial Vicar, and the Deacon with each having a designate function. This has really helped strengthen involvement and productivity.

The Pastoral Team meets often to review and evaluate the life of the parish. We are now in the process of forming and commissioning the Parish Council. This will be a very formidable group to aid the Pastoral Team in the administration of the parish. Since members are drawn from different groups and ministries it reflects the diversity of the parish.

Our policy remains an open door policy. We encourage you to share any of your concerns with us.

**PASTORAL TEAM**  
AND THEIR LIAISON DEPARTMENTS

**Fr. Cam**  
Parish Staff, Liturgy, Faith Formation and Marriage

**Fr. Gene**  
Ushers, Sacristans, EME, Legion of Mary and all Volunteer-based Groups

**Deacon Vince**  
Finance Council Chair, CSA Coordinator, Finance Liaison Person of the Parish, Knights of Columbus, Altar Servers

Note: While these are the go-between for the Pastoral Team, any group or persons who feel the need to meet the Pastor in person are welcome. The Pastoral Team meets monthly to discuss issues presented to them.

## SPIRITUALITY

*“My house shall be called a house of prayer” (Mathew 21:13).*

Immediate attention was directed at truly making prayer, worship and liturgy the primary reason for our gathering.

- ◆ The establishment of the Adoration Chapel became a necessity. We are grateful that many people within and outside our parish are taking advantage of this to improve their spirituality. In this year of Eucharistic Revival nothing could have been better than that.
- ◆ We have also increased our Marian devotion by starting First Saturday devotions and Rosary before every Mass weekday and weekend.
- ◆ To increase participation in our solemnities, we decided to have Vigil Mass for all Solemnities.
- ◆ In order to engender a greater reverence in the celebration of the Eucharist, we introduced incense for the first Sunday of the month, reorganized the management of ciboria and created a more organized distribution of the Eucharist.
- ◆ We also tried to firm up the Liturgical Ministries, Lectors, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Sacristans, Altar Servers, etc., by conducting a Ministry Fair.
- ◆ The Advent Retreat and the Penitential Service given before our Day of Atonement have all become part of the spiritual heritage in this parish.
- ◆ We have also introduced “Journey of Faith”, a weekly Bible reflection to enhance spiritual growth.

We have encouraged other pious groups to find existence here in our parish. The Divine Mercy group, Flower Ministry, Cancer Ministry, Ministry for Singles and Opus Dei group are a few examples. These and many other groups are all preparing to formally launch their activities.

And lastly, in order to maintain a connection between the pastor and his flock, a brief video message is recorded and displayed weekly before Mass and on our social media platforms.

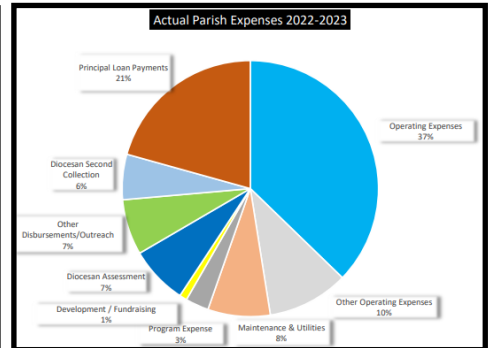
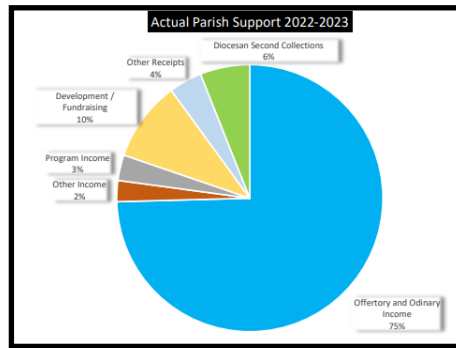
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In 2024, we hope to deepen and broaden the spiritual activities here at our parish.

## YOUR GENEROSITY

I am deeply grateful for all your financial support to this parish. Our weekly Sunday collections and other generous donations are really what sustains all our material needs in this parish. I am committed to



being a good and transparent steward. I would like to see our facility savings account grow to exceed \$200,000 over the next several years and we will continue to publish our annual financial statement.

## CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL



Thank you for sharing God's gifts through your contribution to this year's Catholic Stewardship Appeal (CSA). Due to the overwhelming generosity of 409 individuals and families, we have met our CSA goal of \$230,558!

Not only have met our CSA goal, we have an additional commitment of over \$40,000 that will return to us in the form of a rebate. Remember, even though we have reached our \$230,558 goal for the diocese, all additional contributions are returned to us in the form of a rebate, so please continue to donate to CSA because:

- ♦ We are deciding not to organize any formal parish fund raising events but instead trust that your continuing generous contributions to CSA will provide the rebate necessary to offset the need to hold a fund raising event. Therefore, if you decide to improve your giving with this awareness, it will be highly appreciated. However, whatever amount is comfortable for you will still be well received.
- ♦ Your pledges are very important. If you have not completed your pledge and you are graced with the financial ability to do so, I would appreciate your continued support. If you have already pledged and have a balance, I encourage you to complete it by the end of the year.

Our hope is to exceed the number of individuals and families participating in the Catholic Stewardship Appeal. Our 2024 goal is \$254,279. Again, to those of you who have responded, your stewardship efforts are appreciated by me. I am grateful for your sacrifice and thank you in the name of those who benefit from your charity. I pray that God continues to bless you and your family.

## HOW THE CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP APPEAL AFFECTED OUR LOAN

You may remember that a few years ago, our parish borrowed approximately \$500,000 from the Archdiocese for the renovation of our beautiful church. The money was judiciously used and properly accounted for. Thanks to the great effort of my predecessors and your generosity, last year the loan was paid down to \$211,796.93 thanks to the Catholic Stewardship Appeal rebate program.

Upon my arrival here at the parish, I reviewed the loan and the remaining interest due if we continued on the trajectory of paying on the loan for another two years. Our Finance Council reviewed our financial position and recommended paying off the balance of the renovation loan. I authorized the balance of this loan to be paid off in full. In doing this we have saved a lot of interest we were paying for that loan.



Today I am announcing to you that we are debt free. Indulge me as I shout it again from the sea to the heavens, "We are debt free because of you and your fellow parishioners." Paying off the loan would be difficult if we had not received substantial rebates year after year from the Archdiocese as we selflessly supported the Stewardship Appeal consistently. Each year all monies above our goal have been rebated back to us and we save it in our Building Account. There is no doubt that our financial success is because of you! Thank you.

*Pay to all their dues, taxes to whom taxes are due, toll to whom toll is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due.*

*Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. Rom 13:7-8*

## MY ASPIRATIONS FOR 2024

In order to celebrate our Parish Eucharistic Revival, we are inviting Deacon Steve Greco, a well-known Eucharistic Revivalist, to host the program called 'I Thirst, a Eucharistic Revival' for a robust Eucharistic crusade in our parish. If all things go as planned, this is scheduled to be by June,. We will give you details as soon as arrangements are finalized.

I look forward to seeing more youth involvement in our church activities. If we are able, I would love to see us establish a Children's Mass which will aim at ingraining within our kids the love of the Eucharist.

I am hoping that the Parish Council will enable us to create more fun together as a family. I hope to intensify our revivals and retreats to deepen our spiritual growth and I hope that more of you will consider volunteering for the various Liturgical Ministries

I count on your support as we continue to build God's kingdom here.

Fr. Cam