



# *Saint Ann Maronite Church*

27 October 2014

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Your Pastor and Stewardship Council have been working hard to position the church to survive spiritually and financially. We conducted the 2006 Capital Campaign to make long-overdue infrastructure repairs, (complete remodeling of the Church Hall, new energy-efficient windows in the Church, Church Hall, and Parish Center, replacement of all flat roofs on the Church and Parish Center, repair and remodeling of the Parish Center, etc.), purchase of the new Rectory to protect the Church property and to preserve our footprint on both the Price Street and now Sumner Avenue sides of the Church (that acquisition also resulted in the creation of a handicapped accessible entrance off of a convenient and safe driveway), used rental income from our church-owned double house on Price Street to offset some of the shortfall in offering income, transformation of the old rectory into a useful and functional Parish Center where our youth can learn their catechism and our adults hold meetings and activities for the Sodality, Holy Name Society, and parish committees and for modern offices for the Pastor and Parish Secretary.

At the same time, we are constantly looking to cut expenses in large ways and small, like the decision to eliminate the telephone line in the Church basement (to save more than \$600 per year), elimination of the mailing of offering envelopes to parishioners who never utilize them (envelope mailings cost approx \$75-\$100 per month) and the ongoing transition to the use of email for delivery of the weekly bulletin. (180 of us already receive the bulletin via email, while 236 still receive it in the ordinary mail, often going unread. Eliminating the bulletin mailing, will save more than \$2,000 per year. For those who don't have email and/ or like the hard copy bulletin, it would still be available each Sunday at the Church, and it is always posted on the parish website).


Despite these accomplishments, the core of our financial challenge in keeping our doors open is the lack of weekly contributions. The sad fact is that only about 25% of the parishioners use their envelopes and 75% do not. Actually 25 individual envelope users give 80% of the annual offering income. Recognizing the reality that our families have become more diverse geographically and it is more challenging to get to Mass each week and drop our contributions in the basket, the Stewardship Council has developed a simple, easy and efficient way to make your contributions, particularly for younger parishioners and busy adults, and that is on-line giving or E-Offering!

Just like the way many of us pay our monthly utility bills, or subscriptions to products, services or clubs, we have found a way to make it convenient to do our duty to support the parish. And there are several options. You can make a one-time donation on-line, or set-up weekly or monthly donations on a credit card or from a savings or checking account. You can set your donations to match a pay period or have your contribution made at any time you select each month, just as you do with your other bills. You will never forget, you'll have a complete tax record of your contributions which you can access directly on-line anytime, and you will enjoy the fulfillment and satisfaction that you are supporting the life of our dear Saint Ann Maronite Church for our time and that of the generations to come. You even have the option of signing up for e-giving and continuing to receive the offering envelopes in the mail so you will have envelopes to drop in the basket when you attend a Mass.

We have selected the end of November to begin the E-Offering program, and you will be receiving more detailed information soon. Thank you for your anticipated support, and may God Bless you.

Your Parish Stewardship Council

  
Michael J. Mackarey

  
Atty. Joseph C. Peters

  
G. David Wagner, Chair

  
Rev. Francis J. Marini, Pastor

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