

April, 2020 Parishioner Financial Update

Last quarter John Emilio provided a financial update & indicated that quarterly updates would follow. That update was pre-Covid19. Things have greatly changed and I would like to provide you an update of our finances and the actions that the parish has undertaken. These are and will be challenging times for all of us.

Since March 24th, public gatherings have been prohibited as the State of Michigan issued a Stay at Home order for the public safety. We have livestreamed Sunday Mass and have offered “drive through confessions” on Saturdays. Regular collections have not been possible since there have been no masses. The Parish has encouraged the use of electronic giving [see the bottom of this page for information] and for parishioners, who can afford to do so, to continue their financial support via mailing in their envelope contributions. **Many have done so and we are very, very grateful.**

To date, the revenue stream from collections has declined by nearly half. You can see the amounts in the weekly bulletin which is available on the parish web page. We have employed various strategies to help us continue operations. The parish has worked closely with the Diocese and applied for and was granted a “loan” of \$106k under the federal government’s Paycheck Protection Loan Act. This loan comes with the provision that staff remain on the payroll for eight weeks [April and May]. We have also drawn \$129k from the Parish savings at the diocese to help meet its obligations. The budget is in process and does not include provisions for the Annual Bishop’s Appeal as this has been put on hiatus by the Diocese. Also, we have suspended further efforts on the Marian Hall Kitchen remodeling; the donor restricted funds remain in the separate savings account.

So, what are the parish’s “obligations”? Where is the parish financially as of now?

To best understand the current situation, we have provided a brief cash flow synopsis and done so in the form of a Q & A. If, after reading this, you have any questions, email them to me [FatherMark@stcatherinesiena.org] or to John Emilio [jemilio@stcatherinesiena.org].

Q. What has been the Average Weekly Revenue from E-Giving, ACH and Mail In donations?

A. \$19,790. To understand the impact, we translated this into a typical month.

Revenue Per Month approximates 4 weeks x avg weekly revenue	\$79,160
Monthly Fixed Costs [Clergy Wage, CSGK support & Loan Payment]	(48,731)
Lay staff Payroll and Benefits [at full staffing and current benefits]	(44,075)
Contractual obligations, Consumers Energy bills, leases & maintenance contracts	(19,500)
Monthly Deficit after Fixed Costs are paid.....	(33,146)

As you can see, the parish is in the “red” after covering the fixed costs. This does not include ‘variable’ costs for items such as maintenance supplies, sacramental supplies such as hosts, office supplies etc. nor seasonal costs such as snow plowing and snowmelt. Under normal conditions, collections would average \$1.5 million for the year [Sunday and Holy Day] or \$28,800 per week.

Q. So what has been done and what will be done?

We realize that many of our parishioners are feeling the financial and emotional strain of the pandemic. We pray for everyone daily and hope for the day that the “new normal” may allow for parishioners to return. Until then, we are having to make decisions much like every family is having to make decisions. Here at Saint Catherine’s we are implementing the following efforts:

- We are examining all the contractual obligations and have begun to renegotiate those where feasible.
- No discretionary expenses can be incurred without the prior approval of the Pastor.
- We are temporarily ‘furloughing’ some expenses where we can do so.
- To comply with social distancing and public safety, we are cancelling many group meetings through the summer as offering space will require compliance with health directives which we may not be able to meet. It would also require cleaning and sanitizing the space following such meetings, the latter of which we can do only on a limited basis.

We will continue to explore all cost controls and revenue preservation techniques. We are blessed to have the support and generosity of many parishioners and ask that – to the extent you can – you continue to support Saint Catherine of Siena Parish. We are grateful for your efforts and, on behalf of Father Bill, Father Jeff, Father Ben and myself, you all remain in our thoughts and prayers.

For those wishing to enroll in electronic giving on a recurring basis or just want to make a one time donation, go to <https://stcatherinesiena.org/give>. As always, you can mail in donations to Saint Catherine of Siena Church, 1150 West Centre Avenue, Portage, MI 49024.

Peace and blessings:

Signed/ Fr Mark Vyverman, Pastor