



St. Cyril of Alexandria
Alexandria Bay, NY

Catholic Community of Alexandria
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St. Francis Xavier
Redwood, NY

November 9, 2020

Dear Members of our Parish Communities,

Each year in the fall we reflect on stewardship -- our stewardship as individuals in our parish communities and my stewardship in collaboration with the Parish Finance Council. In that light I am pleased to present the annual Financial Report for the Catholic Community of Alexandria. Your steady and generous sacrifices for our parish communities are evident and appreciated.

The first figures to look at for 2019-2020 are "*Total Ordinary Receipts*" and "*Total Ordinary Expenditures*":

<i>Total Ord. Receipts</i>	\$ 175,646.70
<i>Total Ord. Expense</i>	\$ 183,090.47

The next figures to look at are "*Total Extraordinary Receipts*" and "*Total Extraordinary Expenditures*." Our Extraordinary Receipts primarily involve money received through our Capital Campaign, donations, the return of money deposited in the Diocesan Loan Account and money borrowed from the Diocese. The Extraordinary Expenditures were Rectory Shingle Replacement (\$11,419.79), Rodgers Organ in St. Cyril's (\$36,750.00, and Tower & Chimney Repair of St. Cyril's (\$90,573), Replacing Broken Windows in St. Cyril's (\$500.00) and Rectory Air Conditioner (\$249.99).

As of June 30th, we had \$14,918.40 on deposit in a Trust Fund with the Diocese and \$23,305.75 in the Foundation of the Diocese of Ogdensburg for Operating Expenses, as well as \$97,142.06 (M.E. Walton Good Samaritan Fund) for Needy Families. The Diocesan pays interest on all these monies. The interest paid is noted as "*Interest*" under Auxiliary Ordinary Receipts. The money in the Foundation expresses our hope of "Building a Bridge for the Future" and individuals or the parish can add to this money in the Foundation (Forms are in either church, or contact me.).

In most parishes **church envelopes** are the backbone of parish income, our Ordinary Receipts. And, if you do not currently use envelopes, I encourage you to contact me and I will be glad to prepare a set for you. We have a unique situation because of our summer parishioners and our summer visitors. Some summer parishioners use *Envelopes* and their contributions are noted there. Most of our summer parishioners' or visitors' contributions are indicated as *Plate* offerings. And, as you see, they constitute a large percentage of our ordinary income. We depend on their support.

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We need to note that both our winter and summer attendance has been dropping in recent years. Here are the figures for the Envelope and Plate donations for the past two years:

2018 – 2019	\$ 163,303.00
2019 – 2020	\$147,979.85

This downward trend caused by the Corona Virus has affected our financial situation!

As you review your stewardship, I would suggest that you consider *tithing*, that is, setting aside 10% of your income for charity. This is an ancient biblical practice of making a return to God for his goodness to you. That does not mean giving 10% of one's income to the Church, but rather 5% to the Church and 5% to other charities, such as the rescue squad, volunteer fire department, River Hospital, cancer research, famine relief, Scouting, etc.

Our greatest potential for *Extraordinary Income* is in special gifts. In planning for the future, you may be able to assist our parish by including one of our churches or the diocese in your Estate Planning. Some legal titles are: The Catholic Community of Alexandria; The Roman Catholic Diocese of Ogdensburg, NY. If I can be of assistance to you, please contact me.

In the summer of 2018, you will recall, we began our Financial Campaign, *It's Our Church, It's Our Future*, which sees 75% of donations stay in our Parish and 25% go for diocesan needs (after last year's Bishop's Fund goal). As of the end of June we have given or pledged \$216,096.87 which exceeded our goal of \$201,704.00. Pledges are paid over three or four years. Most sincere thanks

We continue to address a serious problem: the pointing, deteriorated stonework and needed flashing of the church tower, buttresses and preformed stones. In 2020 that work is continuing on the tower and plans are in place for the remaining work to be done in 2021 and 2022. St. Cyril of Alexandria Church is 98 years old, but the scope of the work needed is shocking, and by the end of the four phases the cost will exceed \$700,000.00.

I would like to thank publicly the members of our Parish Finance Council for their dedication to our parish communities. With their help we strive to meet the needs of our parish and at the same time practice vigorous economy. When you have a chance, please take a moment to thank them: Gary Grausgruber and Patty Durand (Parish Trustees), Richard Campany, Phil Felicia, Russell Henry and Tom Sourwine and Jeanne Snow. And, feel free to contact any of us if you have any questions or comments on this Report.

In conclusion, you, the members of our parish communities deserve thanks for your stewardship of **time, talent and treasure**. We are always interested in more parishioners becoming involved in various facets of parish life. I am grateful for your support and your prayers. I hope that you are proud of your parish and that you will continue to support it.

Asking our Lord to bless you, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev.) Douglas G. Comstock, Pastor