

## **Parish Finances**

Like all parishes in the Diocese of Worcester, we closed our 2019-220 fiscal year on August 31.

It should come as no surprise to anyone that given the Covid-19 health emergency and the suspension of public Masses from mid-March until the beginning of June, the offerings received from the Sunday collections decreased significantly.

Nonetheless, with significantly fewer expenses incurred with parish activities suspended, we were able to end the 2019-2020 fiscal year with a balanced budget. A full, detailed parish financial statement will be forthcoming.

With Mass attendance trending upward, the offertory collection has stabilized but is still not near the levels it was prior to the health emergency. We are mindful that some within our community are suffering economically. These are very challenging times. Moreover, we do not know what the fall and winter will bring.

Given the circumstances that we are facing, we remain committed to a responsible stewardship of the parish's financial resources. There are some urgent needs that must be

addressed (e.g. the recurrent flooding in the church hall). Otherwise spending will be kept to only essential needs during the upcoming year.

We encourage all our parishioners to consider using the online offertory giving option. Simply call Terri King at the parish office. Online giving has been a tremendous help during these extraordinary times. To those who regularly mail in their contributions while being unable to come to Sunday Mass and to those who are giving a little more, given our challenges Thank you! Thank you!

I offer my deep gratitude to our parishioners for their generosity in supporting the parish. It is through your goodness that we are able to do all that we do. May God bless you for your kindness.

*Father Steven Labaire*