Transparency is a much-used word in Catholic Church circles these days. We’ve learned that too much secrecy is bad for everyone. This especially applies to church finances. Here at Old St. Joseph’s, procedures are in place to assure transparency: Accountants check our work. The Finance Committee meets regularly. We are mandated to report annually to the Archdiocese. Most importantly, you receive quarterly reports in the parish bulletin, with a more extensive report at the end of every fiscal year. Our fiscal year ended on June 30th, so today I’m offering a report on fiscal year 2019 that ended last June.

The flip side of transparency is engagement. As a parishioner, you are called to inform yourself on the financial affairs of the parish, partly to provide suitable oversight, but even more as a way of assuming responsibility for the financial welfare of the parish. So in that spirit, I offer this year’s full financial report.

Transparency on my part means that I communicate all the facts you need to know, without bombarding you with details that require hours of concentration to weed through. During the Cold War, a friend of mine in the military facetiously remarked that the US government could preserve all its secrets by sending every single scrap of paper in its possession to the Soviet Union every year. The Soviets would never be able to get through it all, he claimed. So my report to you is not “every single piece of paper.” I’ve tried to highlight what I think is truly significant for you to know. Let me know if you think my selection is too much or too little.

The spreadsheet (inserted) with all the columns of numbers is the first place to look. The graphs offer a picture that summarizes all the numbers. The first column of numbers lists the income and expenses for fiscal 2018. The next column gives corresponding figures for the year just ended, Fiscal Year 2019. The next column gives corresponding figures for the year just ended, Fiscal Year 2019.

—continued inside
Since this is the time-frame under study, we also list the budget for that year and the “percent of budget” to make easy comparison. What’s really important here?

Towards the bottom of the second page, look at the line “NET ORDINARY INCOME.” This line captures what I like to call “the bread and butter” operations—all our “ordinary” income and “ordinary” expenses, excluding one-time expenses like capital projects or extraordinary gifts like a bequest. Notice that in fiscal 2018 we had a hefty surplus of over $17,000, but last year (Fiscal Year 2019) we had a deficit of almost $45,000. THAT’S A RED FLAG! If you follow the column of numbers further down the page, you see that we received some income from bequests and investments that softens the blow. So the overall deficit was $6,000 for the year. But it’s that $45,000 deficit that is most worrisome. Why was the deficit for “bread and butter” operations so large?

The obvious first place to look is at expenses. Did we overspend? If you look at the expense lines, you see that TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES were $805,496, which means we actually spent only 96% of our expense budget. Furthermore, expenses were only 2.8% above the previous year’s level. So expenses don’t seem to be the culprit.

The next place to look is income. Did income decrease? We find that TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME amounted to $760,582, which was 8% below budget and 5% less than the previous year’s income. So, at least statistically, there lies our fault.

You can run your eye down the income lines. You see that a number of categories reflect diminished income. Curiously, the first line, Sunday Collections, was approximately $44,000 below budget, matching almost exactly our operating deficit.

How big a problem is this to fix? If it’s a “red flag,” how can we take it down and raise an “all clear” signal? If you break down $44,000/year, it’s significantly less than $1,000/week. If there are 450 people at mass on a weekend, that’s less than $2/person every Sunday. Wow, not much of a problem, you might say! The point is that we really do have to increase contributions to OSJ if we want
to maintain an active and stable faith community. No one has to go to the poor house, but we do have to step up.

One temptation: Why not just cut expenses? First of all, there is not a lot of “fat” in our expense budget, though we want to continue to economize any way we can. Therefore, cutting back expenses means inevitably cutting back on services. That makes the parish less active and less responsive to the needs of parishioners, a process that leads to diminished participation and ultimately less revenue. Thus a downward spiral takes effect that is difficult to reverse. A second temptation is to reduce salaries and benefits, because that is the biggest part of the expense budget. Religious institutions are notorious for compensating employees at rock bottom levels. And that has all sorts of problems associated with it—not to mention that it violates the justice and fairness that the church is called upon to preach to others. So we won’t go there.

Much more can be said about parish finances. Through the generosity of past generations, we have reserve funds that are sufficient to keep the parish out of financial emergencies. Judging from the enthusiasm in the parish for the renovation of the courtyard, I am hopeful that contributions to the Open Door Campaign will ensure that we won’t have to drain our reserve funds to pay for the on-going construction. But that’s a challenge. We are calling for increased financial support for the parish “bread and butter” operations at the same time that we are conducting a campaign to pay for capital improvements. But you understand that both are important for our future.

One final note is the most important of all. Thank you for all you have contributed to our parish. I know personally the sacrifice that many of you make to support OSJ and I am deeply grateful. The Lord has blessed all of us through the generosity of so many. If you have any questions, call, email, or meet with me. I like talking about all this, and being transparent, so don’t hesitate to get in touch. God bless.

—Walter Modrys SJ
Pastor
12:05 Daily Mass Intentions & Presider

10/7  Margaret Kelly Arroyo (D)
      Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ

10/8  Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society
      Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ

10/9  Old St. Joseph’s Memorial Society
      Presider: Fr. Gillespie SJ

10/10 Edward & Mary Britt Families (D)
       Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ

10/11 Anna D’Eramo (D)
       Presider: Fr. O’Donnell SJ

10/12 Theresa DeLeo (D)
       Presider: Fr. O’Donnell SJ

Saturday-Sunday

10/12  5:30 PM  Presider: Fr. Dougherty SJ

10/13  7:30 AM  Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ
       9:30 AM  Presider: Fr. O’Donnell SJ
       11:30 AM Presider: Fr. Modrys SJ
       6:30 PM  Presider: Fr. Gillespie SJ

Updating Our Parish Prayer List

Four times a year, OSJ renews the list of names on the parish prayer list. If you would like someone to remain on the list—or to be added to the list—please email office@oldstjoseph.org or call 215-923-1733. Thank you!

Apostleship of Prayer

Pope Francis’s Apostleship of Prayer (popesprayerusa.net) supports the church’s mission through prayer. Throughout the month of October, Pope Francis invites all to pray for the gift of the Holy Spirit so that the church will meet the challenges of bringing the good news to all people, especially those on the peripheries of our communities.

St. Joseph’s Preparatory School Open House

St. Joseph’s Prep will host an open house for prospective students at 1733 West Girard Avenue, Philadelphia on **Sunday, October 20 from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM**. There will also be 9:00 AM Mass in the Gesu Church next door. Families of boys in grades 5 through 8 are invited to meet students (and parents), teachers, administrators, coaches and alums. For more information, visit sjprep.org.

In your prayers, please remember our sick and homebound brothers and sisters and our ministry at Pennsylvania Hospital.

Announcements

Grace—An OSJ Story Slam
Are you an avid listener to NPR’s The Moth? Have you been to a First Person Arts Story Slam? Perhaps you love true stories or are curious about what a story slam is. Mark your calendar for Friday, October 18; the Walnut Street doors to Barbelin Hall will open at 6:30 PM, and an evening of ‘true stories told live’ and potluck refreshments will begin at 7:00 PM. Here are the rules: five minutes, no notes, your own story with a beginning that hooks us, something at stake in the middle, and a clear, strong ending. The evening’s story prompt is: Grace: Did you find it on a dance floor? Were you a ‘natural’ or did you warm the bench? Is it something that comes before a meal, perhaps unexpectedly? Were you amazed in the moment or did you only recognize it in hindsight? Do you long for it or have you found it? Prepare your five-minute story of grace in your life and come put your name in the hat. Five names will be drawn to be the evening storytellers. For more information, visit oldstjoseph.org.

Tour the Neumann Shrine
Join Old St. Joseph’s Eldership Community for a tour of the National Shrine of St. John Neumann, 1019 North 5th Street, Philadelphia, on Tuesday, October 17 at 11:00 AM. The tour group will attend the 12:15 PM Mass in the church and then enjoy pay-your-own-way lunch at Las Cazuelas, 426 West Girard Avenue. RSVP by October 15 to jamesmoore2030@comcast.net. For more information on St. John Neumann (the patron of sick children and immigrants) and the shrine see stjohnneumann.org.

Jesuit Alumni Mass
The annual Jesuit Alumni Mass will be Sunday, October 20 at 6:30 PM at Old St. Joseph’s. Alums of all Jesuit institutions are welcome to come together in worship that day; a light reception will follow in Barbelin Hall.

On Gratitude
On Saturday, October 26 at 10:30 AM Fr. William Byron SJ will join us at OSJ for a talk on gratitude, based on his book Growing Old Gratefully. Fr. Byron will also preach at the 12:05 PM Mass, which will be followed by lunch and further discussion.

What Goes in the Time Capsule?
A new time capsule will be placed right in that spot in the wall, in front of the elevator to Barbelin Hall. If and when it is opened, it will show future generations what Old St. Joseph’s is like today. What should the capsule contain? Email your suggestions to bjbrown@oldstjoseph.org!

Join OSJ’s Music Ministry!
Thinking about becoming part of the music ministry at Old St. Joseph’s?

The Schola Cantorum provides a varied repertoire of outstanding classical sacred music for the 11:30 AM Mass each Sunday from late September through early June, as well as holy days and concerts throughout the season. The Schola rehearses on Thursdays from 7:00-8:45 PM in Barbelin Hall and at 11:00 AM on Sunday in the church.

The Loyola Choir provides the music for our 6:30 PM Mass each Sunday, offering a wonderful variety of contemporary hymns. The Choir rehearses on Sundays at 5:30 PM before Mass.

If you would like to know more about OSJ’s choirs, please contact Music Director Mark Bani at music@oldstjoseph.org.
INFORMATION

Pastor
Fr. Walter Modrys SJ (pastor@oldstjoseph.org)

Parochial Vicar
Fr. Fran Gillespie SJ (fgillespie@oldstjoseph.org)

In Residence
Br. Robert Carson SJ
Fr. Edward Dougherty SJ (dougherty@oldstjoseph.org)
Fr. Ed O’Donnell SJ (eodonnell@oldstjoseph.org)

Pastoral Associate
BJ Brown (bjbrown@oldstjoseph.org)

Business Manager
Eric German (germane@oldstjoseph.org)

Director of Music
Mark Bani (music@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Offices
(office@oldstjoseph.org)

Religious Education (PREP) Coordinator
Christine Szczepanowski (prep@oldstjoseph.org)

Faith, Food & Friends Director
Deborah Hluchan (faithandfriends@oldstjoseph.org)

Rectory Office Hours
Monday through Friday: 9:30 AM to 4:30 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Mass Times
Monday through Saturday: 12:05 PM
Saturday Vigil Mass for Sunday: 5:30 PM
Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 AM and 6:30 PM
Holy Days: 12:05 and 7:00 PM

Medical Emergency
In a medical emergency when the need for a priest is urgent, please call the rectory.

Hearing Enhancements
Old St. Joseph’s is equipped with an audio hearing loop. Switch on the T-coil function of your device to use the loop. Booklets with the Sunday readings are available in the rear of the church.

Registration
Registration forms are available in the rectory office during normal office hours, on the bookcases in the back of the church and online at www.oldstjoseph.org. They can be returned to the parish office by mail or in person.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
A priest is available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation Monday through Saturday from 11:30 AM–12:00 PM or by appointment.

Sacrament of Baptism
If you want to arrange a baptism, please call Fr. Dougherty at the parish office at least two months before the desired date to arrange catechesis and the baptism celebration.

Eucharist for the Homebound
To arrange to receive Communion at home, please contact the parish offices.

The Sacrament of Anointing
The Sacrament of Anointing (the sacrament of the sick) is offered during the 12:05 PM Mass on the first Saturday of each month. Homebound or hospitalized persons wanting to receive the Sacrament of Anointing should call the parish office.

Sacrament of Matrimony
If you want to be married at Old St. Joseph’s, please visit our website, oldstjoseph.org and read the material under the heading Weddings, then call the parish office at least nine months before your desired wedding date.

Rite of Christian Initiation
If you are an adult wishing to be baptized, or to receive First Eucharist and Confirmation, or are a baptized non-Catholic seeking full communion with Catholic Church, please call the parish office or email rcia@oldstjoseph.org.

Mass of Christian Burial
To schedule a funeral or memorial Mass, ask your funeral director to call the parish office.

Parish Pastoral Council
(osjpc@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Finance Council
Paul Shay, chair

Historic Preservation Corporation Board
Fr. Walter Modrys SJ, president

Adult Education
Rita O’Brien and Jeanmarie Zippo (adulted@oldstjoseph.org)

Eldership
Pat Nelson (eldership@oldstjoseph.org)

Parish Life
Joe Casey (parishlife@oldstjoseph.org)

Ignatian Spirituality and Formation
Len Mancini (osjspirituality@oldstjoseph.org)

Women, Faith and Fellowship
Rana McNamara (wff@oldstjoseph.org)

Young Adult Community
(osjyac@gmail.com)

Altar Servers
Maria Ramirez (altarserver@oldstjoseph.org)

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
Bill Stewart (EM@oldstjoseph.org)

Hospital Ministry
Luanne Balestrucci (hospitalEM@oldstjoseph.org)

Homebound Ministry
Neal Hébert (homeEM@oldstjoseph.org)

Lectors
Lou Anne Bulik (lectors@oldstjoseph.org)

Ushers
Nikola Szigorich (ushers@oldstjoseph.org)

Children’s Liturgy of the Word
Peggy Connolly (clow@oldstjoseph.org)