Dear Parishioners,

Since the Gospel at today’s Mass speaks about “settling accounts,” I thought it would be appropriate for me to mention some financial matters that were discussed by the Parish Finance Council at a recent meeting. As you will recall I sent a letter to all parishioners in September with a summary of our financial condition and an appeal for everyone to participate fully in the parish offertory. Since then many people have asked what the response to that letter was. About twenty people who already gave regularly contacted us to let us know that they were increasing their pledge, and we are very grateful to them. We have not seen much difference in the total number of persons contributing regularly. This suggests that we continue to receive the bulk of our financial support from the same people. The bottom line is this: the Offertory (collection) is still too low.

The Finance Council went back several years to look at Mass attendance and offertory (collection) trends. Since we take attendance at the Masses during the month of October, and the fiscal year ends June 30, we were able to look at current numbers. Here they are for your perusal:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Saturday/Sunday Mass attendance</th>
<th>Yearly Offertory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>955</td>
<td>$766,466</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>851</td>
<td>$715,115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>885</td>
<td>$679,346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>$685,789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>$715,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>862</td>
<td>$725,666</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A couple of things jump out from these numbers. First, there was a decrease of about 100 in the Mass attendance between 2009 and 2010. That is probably due to the elimination of the 9:30 Sunday Mass. Other than that, Mass attendance has not changed all that much over the years. Second, the collection is not very different from what it was in 2010. But, of course, expenses for such things as utilities, salaries, and benefits continue to rise. Income is not keeping up with inflation.

We have done a lot of cutting and are now running a balanced budget. The parish ran a deficit every year from 2009 to 2013, which resulted in the depletion of parish reserves. That has been corrected. I can assure you that we are pinching every penny and trying to be very good stewards of what God has given us. However, we really should be spending more on evangelization, maintenance, and repair.

While things could be a lot better, personally, I remain optimistic about our situation. It’s obvious that there are many parishioners who give faithfully to support the parish, and I have every reason to think that will continue. Over the years generous parishioners have set up several endowments to help us meet/pay our bills into the future. There is room for a lot of growth in that area. In the short term, our biggest priorities need to be reaching out to inactive Catholics and the unchurched in the area, along with increasing enrollment in our outstanding school. If we do those two things well, the finances will take care of themselves.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Thomas Buffer
Reminder for Visitation of the Sick: Please notify the Parish Office if you or a loved one is ill or in the hospital by calling 382-2118. Please leave a message on the voicemail. Thank you.

~SERVERS~

This Weekend: November 15/16, 2014
5:00 p.m. Gavin Baisden, Jamie Baisden & Darby Fancelli
8:00 a.m. Kelly Baer, Christie Longo & Renata Schuler
11:00 a.m. Matthew Starrs, Thomas Starrs & Anna Celestino

Next Weekend: November 22/23, 2014
5:00 p.m. Kristina Fennell, *Volunteers needed
8:00 a.m. Chris McLernon, Michael McLernon & Christie Longo
11:00 a.m. Hannah Peltier, Maria Peltier & Clare Stevenson

(Liturgical Minister Schedules are posted online at www.marionstmary.org/Bulletin & Minister Schedule).

~LECTORS~

This Weekend: November 15/16, 2014
5:00 p.m. (I) Chris Sycks
   (II) Mary Ann Stolarczyk
8:00 a.m. (I) Sharon Baldinger
   (II) Melina Celestino
11:00 a.m. (I) Michael Starrs
   (II) Fred Fosco

Next Weekend: November 22/23, 2014
5:00 p.m. (I) Pat Stevens
   (II) Joan Shoup
8:00 a.m. (I) Deb Ketcham
   (II) Pat Baldinger
11:00 a.m. (I) David Kalisch
   (II) Daniel Newmarker

(Liturgical Minister Schedules are posted online at www.marionstmary.org/Bulletin & Minister Schedule).

ST. MARY SCHOOL NEWS

November 19: 8:30 a.m. School Mass
November 20: 4:00-5:15 p.m. Market Day Pick-up (school gym)

St. Mary School is accepting enrollment. Please call 382-1607 for more information.

IRISH LUCKY 10 SWEEPSTAKES:
November is kickoff month for the Irish Lucky 10 Sweepstakes. A book of tickets will be sent to you soon. Your tickets could be winners, so be sure to check your mail! The first drawing will be Wednesday, December 17, 2014 with the final drawing on February 18, 2015. Your support is most appreciated. Should you have any questions or need additional tickets, contact Rebecca Concepcion at rconcepcion483@gmail.com or call (419) 704-2616.

DID YOU EVER ASK YOURSELF:
Where can I find the truth? Are all religions the same? Who is Jesus Christ? Is the Bible true? What must I do to have eternal life? Why do Catholics do that?
If you are asking these questions, or questions like them, you are invited to learn about the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults).
The RCIA is for:
- Unbaptized adults who want to learn more about what the Catholic Church believes
- Adults baptized in non-Catholic Christian communities who want to learn more about what the Catholic Church believes
- Adult Catholics who never received First Communion or Confirmation
- Adult Catholics who just want to learn more about their Faith.
Sessions are held on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., in St. Mary’s Church Commons, 251 North Main Street, Marion (white building just north of St. Mary’s Church).
For more information, contact the parish office (740-382-2118).

INTRODUCTORY CATECHIST CERTIFICATION COURSE
Glenna Celestino, Facilitator
All Classes will take place from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., in the Small Meeting Room at the Commons.
November 22  Introduction to Scripture  1.5, 6x
January 24, 2015  Liturgy and Sacraments  1.7, 6x
February 28  Catholic Morality  1.9, 5.1, 5.2
March 28  Prayer and Spirituality  1.6, 1.8

HOSPITALITY SUNDAY after the 8:00 and 11:00 a.m.
Masses today. Hosted by St. Mary Welcoming Committee. Join your fellow parishioners after Mass in Moira Hall for coffee, donuts and conversation!
**Theology on Tap (young adults)**

T.O.T. is open to young adult Catholics, age 21-40. T.O.T. offers fellowship, discussion and speakers on relevant topics in a casual environment.

7:30-9:00 p.m. at The Thirsty Turtle.

Dec. 9 Fr. Thomas Blau Seeking God Through the Eyes of Science
Jan. 13 Fr. Thomas Buffer All Things Catholic
Feb. 10 Mark & MaryJo Starrs NFP: The Best Thing for Your Marriage

Questions? Please call Lori at 387-6225. A Facebook page has been launched for the group and can be found by searching “St. Mary Parish Young Adults.”

**Eucharistic Adoration**

Are you finding it difficult to set aside time for deeper prayer? Is there a longing in your heart to truly connect with Our Lord and feel His Holy Presence in your life? Consider spending some quiet time in front of the Tabernacle praying, reading, and listening.

Special hours of Eucharistic Adoration at St. Mary Parish are:

- Tuesdays 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. each week as well as Fridays from 9:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. Saturday. If adoring after 5:00 p.m., please contact the Church office for the keypad entry code.

“If we are to know the Lord, we must go to Him. Listen to Him in silence before the Tabernacle and approach Him in the Sacraments.” Pope Francis

**Mass Intentions for 2015**

We are now scheduling Mass intentions for 2015. You can also schedule the Sanctuary Candle to burn in memory of loved ones or for special intentions/occasions. Also, Communion Hosts as well can be offered. Intentions are noted in the Bulletin. Please contact Dolores at the Parish Office (382-2118 or e-mail at dolores@marionstmary.org) to schedule your Masses. Thank you.

Please note: There are weekday Mass Intentions still available for 2014.

**THE LITTLE BLUE BOOK begins with the First Sunday of Advent:**

New for 2014, we have available copies of the Advent/Christmas season prayer reflection booklet titled “The Little Blue Book.” This year, the Little Blue Book will use the Gospel passages assigned for the weekday Masses of these seasons. This will give many people a chance to reflect and pray passages from all of the Gospels that they may have seldom heard proclaimed or preached about at liturgy. Each day there will be also a variety of thoughts about the Advent & Christmas seasons, the feast of the day and various traditions and customs.

Members of the Spiritual Enrichment Commission will be selling these little books after Masses on November 15/16 and 22/23. Cost is still only $1.00.

**Early Bulletin Deadline for Thanksgiving Holiday:**

Due to Thanksgiving Holiday, bulletin articles for Sunday, November 30 must be submitted to the Parish Office by Wednesday, November 19. You can e-mail them to dolores@marionstmary.org. Thank you.
**FLOWERS FOR CHRISTMAS:**
Those who wish to help with the Christmas flowers for church may do so by making a donation in loving memory of a deceased family member, dear friend, or any special intention. To donate, please use the special “FLOWER OFFERING” envelope that is available at the doors (or any envelope marked “Christmas Flowers” and your name and the intention to be remembered) and drop in the collection basket on Sunday or mail to the Parish Office. **Deadline is Friday, December 12. Thank you.**

**CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE**
St. Mary parishioners will have the opportunity to provide a Christmas gift to a needy nursing home resident this year through the St. Mary Respect Life Christmas Giving Tree project. Trees will be placed in the church the weekend of November 29 and 30. There will also be tags on the trees for people who would like to bake cookies for the nursing homes.

Please return all wrapped gifts/cookies to the church on the weekend of December 20/21 so they can be delivered that Sunday afternoon. Please do not bring your gifts early. Thank you for your help.

St. Mary Respect Life Committee

**RESPECT LIFE**
Mother Teresa said that Christ comes to us in the distressing disguise of the poor. She also said that it is a terrible poverty that a child must die so that people might live as they wish. Taken together, I believe that the poorest of the poor are those whose poverty lies in the loss of a child. We should consider them the face of Christ in our lives and help them with a kind word, a listening ear, a healing embrace. Only love can overcome the tragedy of abortion, and that love must begin with each of us.

― Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight, Knights of Columbus

Address at the 25th Anniversary of Project Rachel

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**Advent Morning of Reflection**
Saturday, December 6, 2014, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Facilitated by Sr. Louis Mary Passeri
“Here Is You “

Our God has come and remains with us. We have only to recognize him and invite him into our hearts. Come and pray, listen, reflect and share with others as we celebrate the presence of our God within and around us. Cost is $15.00, includes continental breakfast.

Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Road, Newark, OH 43056. Visit our website at www.sts peterpaulretreatcenter.com, email us at info@sts peterpaulretreatcenter.com, or call (740) 928-4246 to register today.

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**PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR THE COMING COLD**
Make yourself a warmer home life by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. Plan ahead for one of the next two weekends in Columbus, in the new year on February 13-15 and April 10-12. For more information or to register, contact Paul and Marilou Clouse at 740-746-9003 or visit our website at www.wmmecolumbus.org.

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**Delphos St. John’s Hall of Fame To Induct Eleventh Class**
The Delphos St. John’s Hall of Fame will induct its eleventh class on Sunday, November 30, 2014 in the All Saints Building at St. John’s School. The inductees will be recognized at 11:30 a.m. Mass at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Following Mass, a free brunch will be held in the All Saints Building beginning at 12:30 p.m. The induction ceremony will begin at approximately 1:45 p.m.

**John Gunder, Marion Catholic Class of 1962, is one of the inductees.**
The event is free and open to the public but reservations are necessary to attend the brunch. Reservations should include name, number attending and a contact email address or phone number. Send reservations to Hall of Fame, PO Box 112, Delphos, OH 45833, email to rebe skotte@woh rr.com or call 419-692-0752. Deadline for reservations is November 17.

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**Catholic Campaign for Human Development**
Next week’s Collection for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) needs your help. CCHD was founded to end the cycle of poverty in the United States by funding organizations that help people help themselves. With the tradition of improving education, housing situations, and economic development, CCHD continues to make a positive impact in communities nationwide.

Your contribution will defend human dignity and help those living on the margins of our society. **Please give to the CCHD Collection.**

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**World Youth Day**
**July 24-August 2, 2016**
**Krakow, Poland**
World Youth Day (WYD) is a worldwide celebration of young Catholics with the Holy Father. WYD is primarily for young adults (18-30’s) and you must be 18 or over at time of trip to attend WYD with the diocesan group. You must sign up NOW to go! Initial registration due by January 15, 2015. Payment plans are available. Contact the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for more information and to register.

Our thoughts and prayers are with those serving our country and with their loved ones at home. We pray for a safe homecoming and that the world may soon be at peace.

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**Lecture on the Second Vatican Council at the Josephinum**
The Pontifical College Josephinum’s lecture series continues Wednesday, November 19, with a presentation by Father Jared Wicks, SJ, Scholar in Residence. Father Wicks will present “Vatican II in 1964: Major Doctrinal Advances, but New Fissures on Addressing the Modern World” at 7:00 p.m. in the Jessing Center on the Josephinum campus. The event is free of charge and open to the public; reservations not required. For more information, please call the Academic Dean’s office at 614-985-2274.