



St. Barbara Catholic Church

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Dear People of St. Barbara,

This mailing includes the Financial Report both for the Parish and the School for Fiscal Year 2008-2009, the Parish Stewardship Report, and Parish Maintenance Report. Also included with this mailing is a Centennial Banquet ticket order form. Rather than having a separate mailing, it was decided to include this form with the parish reports to save postage costs.

Everyone knows that these have been extraordinarily difficult economic times. Our Parish Financial Report reflects these difficult times. For fiscal year 2008-2009, we ran a deficit of -\$32,721 (after applying a \$6,000 Archdiocesan Grant.). For the prior year of 2007-2008, we had a slight surplus of \$26,016 (after applying the \$6,000 Archdiocesan Grant.). Our total revenue for 2008-2009 was down by \$45,036 (a 10.5% decrease), while our expenses were only up by \$13,701 (a 3.4% increase) as compared to 2007-2008. The bit of good news is that because of the cash flow between 2007-2008 and 2008-2009, we were able to end this past fiscal year having paid all our bills.

In October of 2007, St. Barbara initiated the Planned Offering Program. Our goal for the Offertory Collection is \$5,500 per week, which includes both the Regular Sunday First Collection and the Special Parish Second Collection. For a time, we were not only achieving that goal but also exceeding that goal. Since the beginnings of the economic downturn, our Sunday collection has seldom exceeded \$5,000. From July 1, 2009 through October 25, 2009, while our overall goal totals to \$93,500, our actual Sunday income has only been \$80,725, a shortfall of \$12,775 for the first four months of the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

For this new fiscal year, 2009-2010, the Archdiocese has frozen the salaries of all employees to help parishes weather the recession. This includes bishops, priests, staff, principals, and teachers. As a parish, we have been living from "Paycheck to Paycheck," as families have been doing. Any unpaid bills with the Archdiocese will be converted into a loan at the end of the fiscal year. Our 2009-2010 budget has projected a deficit of -\$52,372. I know that there are parishioners who have maintained their current level of giving in spite of a job loss or a decrease in earnings. Some of you are making a significant sacrifice in order to help support your parish, St. Barbara.

The Stewardship Report outlines the many different ways our parish is building up the Body of Christ in this world. St. Barbara most importantly is about nourishing the faith and passing on our faith to the next generation. There are a variety of spiritual and social events happening at St. Barbara. Because of the Ministry Fair in September, we are welcoming a number of new Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, and the new ministry of Greeter.

Foremost, I thank you for your generosity to your parish, St. Barbara. Many of you have been very gracious with not only your treasure, but with your time and talent. Faithful stewardship involves sharing with God and our church the blessings we have received.

Secondly, based on the recommendation of the Finance Council, I am asking you to see if your current finances would allow you to increase your offering by an additional \$3 or \$4 dollars per Sunday. This will help to reduce our shortfall during this economic downturn.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Dennis Ziomek