



# Transfiguration of the Lord Parish

A Roman Catholic Community of Faith

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June 05, 2021

Dear brothers and sisters,

During this time when the pandemic has brought tremendous loss and hardship to so many people, I am deeply grateful to each of you and to all our families for your sacrifices, prayers and financial contributions that are so essential in meeting day-to-day Parish needs, maintaining facilities, and sustaining our ministries. Thank you for the many ways that you show generosity and share your faith. Our Parish community depends on this support.

We are happy that most of the restrictions imposed to control the spread of COVID-19 have been lifted and we are returning to full capacity for seating in our churches.

Today our Parish is announcing a drive beginning the first week of June through September to increase the parish's revenue through our weekly contributions. This drive will add to our existing resources that are critical for the wellbeing of our parish. We hope that you can help.

Over the past several years, our parish has been operating at a deficit. Our collection for Weekly, Holy Days, Easter and Christmas fell approximately \$45,000 from July of 2018 thru June 2020. Last year's deficit was also due to the effect that COVID 19 has had on all area parishes.

Our expenses continue to remain the same if not more. For the fiscal year ending in June 2020, our total expenses were \$ 446,850. For every dollar, expenses were 45 cents for Operations and Maintenance, 43 cents for Salaries and Benefits (including weekend helps), 7 cents for Parish Life and Ministries, and 5 cents for Administration.

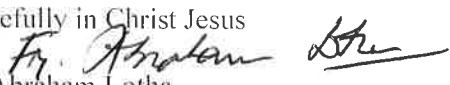
While the weekly Parish offerings often cover many expenses, we also face times when additional contributions are required to meet other unanticipated costs that may have been overlooked, escaped our attention, or surfaced in an emergency. Additionally, we owe the Diocese of Metuchen \$190,900 for Diocesan Assessment and \$66,900 for Elementary School Assessment which we could not pay due to the deficit we've had. Currently, our weekly contributions are averaging about \$6,850.

Moving forward, I would like to ask each of you to pray on this matter and consider increasing your weekly contribution to the parish by 10% to 20% or even an increase of a couple dollars each week. Any increase will make a difference. Please understand that this request is not made lightly considering the hardships many have faced over the past year dealing with the pandemic.

Some may want to give a restricted donation that supports a specific church ministry or other direct area of Parish need. Doing this can also be very helpful. A donation list is on the reverse side of this letter.

As always, I appreciate your openness and wonderful generosity to Transfiguration of the Lord Parish. Wishing you and your family many blessings throughout this year and beyond.

Gratefully in Christ Jesus

  
Fr. Abraham Lotha

### **Increased Giving Drive**

If you wish, you can also choose to make a restricted donation to any of the following specific areas that will directly benefit our parish:

1. Religious Education
2. Youth Group
3. Liturgy and Worship Aids (bulletin inserts, hymn books, books, etc)
4. Music Ministry
5. Spiritual Programs (retreats, recollections, talks, etc.)
6. Parish Leadership Development (trainings, seminars, etc.)
7. Utilities/Energy
8. Landscaping & Maintenance of Grounds
9. Snow Removal
10. Charities and Social Concerns