



St. Jerome Church
23 Half Mile Road
Norwalk, CT 06851
203-847-5349

September 14, 2009

Dear Parishioner:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the parish financial statement for this past year. Although we came out ahead by \$21,234.00, this was due to the success of the car raffle. What is remarkable about this parish is that although many people experienced financial difficulties, our increased Offertory campaign was very successful and helped us to meet most of our expenses. Nonetheless, our budget is always very tight. Every year we predict income perfectly and yet our expenses are always more than we expected. You will note, for example, that last year we spend \$63,111.00 on utilities with a good part of that being heating oil. This year our oil bill will be \$2.35 a gallon and so that expense should be limited. If people continue to support the parish financially, we should be able to meet this year's budget.

Another great help to the parish has been the Faith Direct electronic giving program. Ninety-five parish families participate and almost 30% of our Offertory income comes from this source. This past summer when weekend Mass attendance dropped greatly, electronic giving came to our rescue. On behalf of our Finance Council I want to thank everyone who uses Faith Direct and encourage everyone else to consider using it. You can contact them either at www.faithdirect.net or by calling 1-866-547-8757. Our parish code is CT46.

We are including an envelope with this year's report in hopes that you will make a one-time gift to this year's capital project for the church. We are going to replace many of the lights in church and hope to install energy-saving equipment that will make their use more efficient. The whole project could cost more than \$20,000 since we need to use scaffolding in church for at least a week. We are also hoping that CL&P will pay for part of the project since we will be saving energy and replacing ancient lighting. Your one-time gift can be mailed in or put in the collection basket in the enclosed envelope.

As always, anyone who would like to have a detailed look at our financial situation is always welcome to make an appointment to do so or to come to one of our quarterly finance meetings. Meanwhile, I thank you for your extraordinary generosity to the parish and assure you of my prayers.

Gratefully,
Fr. David