

Dear St. Joseph Parishioners,

It has been just over two years since I was appointed by Bishop Parkes as Administrator of St. Joseph Catholic Church, effective July 1, 2023. Since my appointment, we have faced many uncertainties and challenges.

- At the start of the 2023/24 fiscal year (July 1-June 30), our Parish was over \$500,000 in debt, and preliminary financial analysis suggested that the Parish could not financially support a dedicated pastor and might not survive.
- The 2024 hurricanes caused significant damage across the Diocese, affecting both St. Joseph and the Cathedral of St. Jude, resulting in critical damage and unanticipated facility expenses. Some of which are ongoing.
- The Bishop assigning Fr. Padilla to his new position as Pastor of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini Parish in July 2025, along with continued changes within the Parish, has created a sense of uncertainty and loss among many of our parishioners.

However, I am pleased to share that we have also made significant progress in overcoming these hurdles. I, along with the St. Joseph's Finance Council, would like to provide you with a brief overview of the financial state of our Parish, the progress we have made, and what we can anticipate moving forward.

Please make the effort to read the attached Financial Overview. It highlights some key financial activities for each of the last two fiscal years. I urge you to take the time to read and understand the information presented, the work that dedicated individuals have done on behalf of St. Joseph, and the financial commitments and challenges we face.

Clearly, there will be financial implications, whatever the future direction of our Parish. In devising the budget and Parish planning, we have had to make some assumptions and some difficult decisions. We are in the process of planning a meeting to discuss recent accomplishments, ongoing challenges, and plans. We also aim to gather your feedback and suggestions for further improvements. We will provide additional information about the meeting details soon.

I know I speak for Deacon John Carter, Fr. Andrew Burns, our dedicated staff, and all St. Joseph employees when I say we are proud of the progress we've made in a relatively short time. We are optimistic that the efforts put in place will successfully reduce the Parish's debt and eventually bring St. Joseph to a financially healthy and sustainable state.

The challenges facing St. Joseph did not arise overnight, and we will not be able to resolve them overnight. However, together, we are making great strides in restoring St. Joseph to its well-deserved glory. We understand the difficulties and uncertainties you may be feeling, and we are committed to overcoming them together.

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation and dedication to all of you. Your financial and spiritual support has been instrumental in our progress, and we are deeply grateful for your commitment to your Parish community.

St. Joseph Parish has undergone significant changes over its 100+ years, and you have proven to be both adaptable and resilient in the face of uncertainty and changing circumstances. We are blessed to have your continued support.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Tom Morgan