

July 23, 2019

Dear Parishioner:

As you can see by the financial results file, we finished the 2018/19 fiscal year in the black. We are very grateful to you for your generous assistance. At the same time, however, there are some disturbing trends. Our Sunday collections are slowly but steadily decreasing, dipping by 4 to 5% year over year. Quite frankly, one of the reasons we were in the black this past year was due to a number of unexpected bequests that came in. These are helpful of course, but their unpredictable nature defies our planning and budgeting process. Adding to the potential strain is the inexorable reality of inflation, campus maintenance, and cost of living increases.

There is so much we are looking to accomplish this year – our newly formed Pastoral Council is generating ideas and new initiatives every time we meet. My plea is simple. If you have not increased your giving in the past couple of years, would you be willing to consider raising your Church support by 10-20 percent? I know this sounds like a lot, but with our Capital Campaign ending in September, perhaps you can redirect some of those Campaign donations to parish support? Of course, anything you can do is highly appreciated!

Many of you are on-line givers, which is a wonderful way of providing us with consistent support. If you would like to move from envelopes to on-line giving, please go to our website and click on "On Line Giving." As always, anyone in the Office can assist you if needed.

You are always in my prayers. May God continue to bless you abundantly!

In Jesus and Mary,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Lecomte".

**Rev. Gerard Lecomte, CJM
St. James - St. Leo Catholic Community**