

*A Roman Catholic Personal Parish
for the Extraordinary Form
in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.*

MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD of JESUS PARISH

Pentecost Sunday

May 19, A.D. 2024



Mass Schedule

Sundays: 8am, 11am
Monday: 12 Noon
Tuesday: 12 Noon & 7pm
Wednesday through Friday: 12 Noon
1st Friday of Month: 12 Noon & 7pm
Saturday: 9am

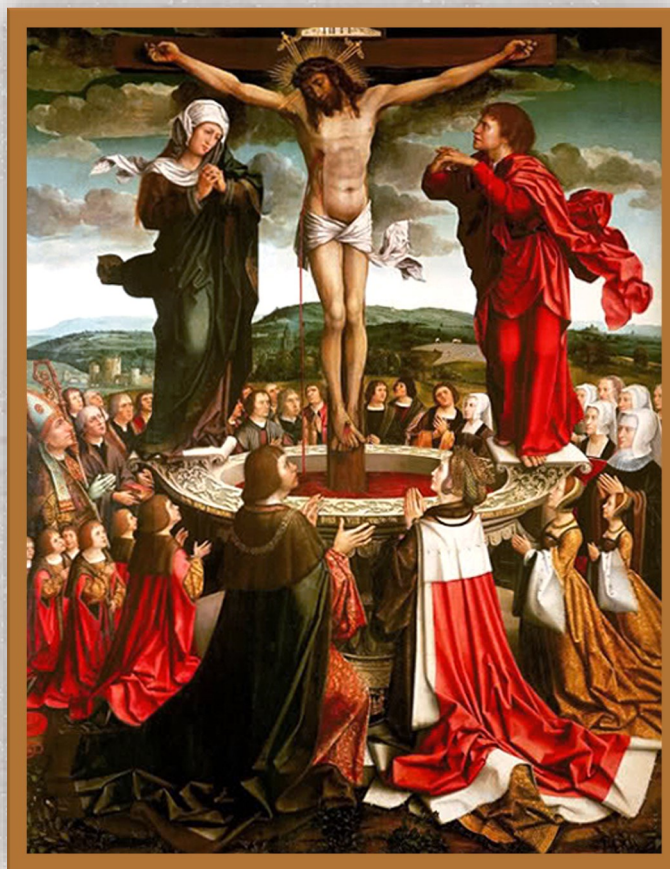
Confession Schedule

Sundays: 7-8am; 10-11am
Monday-Friday: 11:15-11:45am
Tuesdays: also 6:15-6:45pm
Saturday: 8-8:45am

Please consult the weekly bulletin for modifications to the schedule.

Clergy & Staff

Canon William Avis, *Pastor*
pastor@mpboj.com
Canon Ross Bourgeois, *Parochial Vicar*
canon.bourgeois@institute-christ-king.org
Geraldine Redic, *Business Manager/Safe Environment*
businessmanager@mpboj.com
Gail Buchman, *Administrative Assistant*
office@mpboj.com
Charles R. Friend, *Budgets & Financial Reporting*
temporalaffairs@mpboj.com
John Rokosz, *Music Director*
music@mpboj.com
Jeannine M. Goelz, *Office Coordinator*
volunteer@mpboj.com
Jack Aul, *Project Superintendent*
projectsuper@mpboj.com
George Wright, *ERT/Usher Coordinator*
usher-ert@mpboj.com
Bill Redic, *Catechism Administrator*
catechism@mpboj.com



Contact Information

Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 9am-2pm
3250 California Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15212
Phone 412-761-1508
Fax: 412-761-6454
Email: office@mpboj.com
Website: mostpreciousbloodparish.org or
mpboj.com

Pennsylvania Childline (report suspected child abuse)
1-800-932-0313
Protection of Children and Youth (diocesan office)
1-888-808-1235



Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest

Veritatem Facientes In Caritate—Furthering the Truth in Charity

Liturgical Schedule

Sunday, May 19, 2024

Pentecost Sunday, 1st Class—Red

- 8AM LMO + Deceased Members of Moore Family-John, Pat & Sons, Tim, Tom, & Tynan (Terry Moore)
- 11AM HM *Pro populo*
Processional: Come Holy Ghost (pg. 57)
Recessional: Come Down O Love Divine (pg. 56)

Monday, May 20, 2024

Pentecost Monday, 1st Class—Red

- 12PM LMO Benjamin & Arlie Urso—Wedding Ann. (Family)

Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Pentecost Tuesday, 1st Class—Red

- 12PM LMO Deceased members of D’Souza/Mullins Family (D’Souza Family)
- 7PM LM Deceased members of Meehan & Kelch Families (Kelch Family)

Wednesday, May 22, 2024

Ember Wednesday, 1st Class—Red

- 12PM LM + Stanley & Margaret Pisula (Aaron & Margaux Pisula)

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Pentecost Thursday, 1st Class—Red

- 12PM LM Jill Ann Garfold (Michael Garfold Family)
- 8PM Holy Hour of Adoration
- 9PM Compline

Friday, May 24, 2024

Ember Friday, 1st Class—Red

- 12PM LM Abbé Antoine Bunneus (Laurie Walz)

Saturday, May 25, 2024

Ember Saturday, 1st Class—Red

- 10AM LM + Maria Rikk (Christian Mothers)

Sunday, May 26, 2024

Trinity Sunday, 1st Class—White

- 8AM LMO Living & Deceased of Aul & Greb Families (Jack & Mary Lou Aul & Family)
- 11AM HM *Pro populo*
Processional: O God, Almighty Father
Recessional: Holy God We Praise Thy Name

LM = Low Mass; LMO = Low Mass with Organ; HM = High/Solemn Mass

Our Weekly Offerings

Sunday, May 12, 2024

Offertory	\$9,471.00
Offertory (Ascension).....	\$2,732.00
Parish Appeal.....	\$2,152.00
Parish Improvement.....	\$10.00
Mother’s Day Remembrance.....	\$126.00

Sunday Mass Attendance: 8AM 572; 11AM 420; Total 992

On Line Contributions

The parish utilizes Faith Direct for on-line donations, which can be made directly from your bank account or credit card. If interested in making donations in this manner, please visit:

memberships.faithdirect.net/PA678 or call 866-507-8757.

Parish Group News

CONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS usually meets every First Saturday of the month, beginning with the 9AM Mass. All adult women are welcome.

Please contact christianmothers@mpboj.com for more information.

RESPECT LIFE GROUP (RLG) promotes a culture of life through three working subcommittees of Legislation, Education, and Advocacy. Contact Brenda Briola at respectlife@mpboj.com or 724-650-5767 for more information.

The May/June RLG newsletter is available in the church entrances, please feel free to take a copy.

SURSUM CORDA-YOUNG ADULTS GROUP is a nationwide initiative to foster the spiritual lives of Catholic adults, AGES 18–35, at Institute apostolates. To sign up for the mailing list and receive notice of future events, text Corda to 84576 and choose "SC Pittsburgh." For more information, contact José Piñero at 863.450.5143 or sursumcorda@mpboj.com.

Homeschool Graduation Mass June 22nd

If you have a homeschooler graduating this year and would like to participate in the Homeschool Graduation Mass, please contact Jennifer Sikora at jenssi@comcast.net before June 1st. The Mass will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday June 22nd.

Quarterly Financial Statement & Financial FAQs

Members of the MPBOJ Pastoral and Finance Councils will be handing out the parish third quarter Financial Statement after both Masses today. Our council members also prepared a “Frequently Asked Questions” handout, which addresses some of the typical questions asked by our parishioners regarding parish donations. Please be sure to take copies of both, read them, and stay informed!

Two Priestly Ordinations

Deacon Stephen Michael Wetzel, FSSP, a native of Delmont, will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood later this month. Deacon Wetzel is the son of parishioners James & Theresa Wetzel. You are cordially invited to attend Father Wetzel’s First Mass of Thanksgiving at our parish on **Saturday, June 1 at 1 p.m.** Following Mass, Father Wetzel will give First Blessings in the church. All are then invited to a Dinner Reception in the Parish Center Gym. **To attend the dinner, please RSVP by this Friday, May 24th to swetzel@olgseminary.org.**

Congratulations, best wishes and prayers as well for **Deacon Sean-Michael Nypaver**, who will be ordained to the priesthood on June 1 for the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia. Deacon Nypaver is the son of Tom & Carol Nypaver of our parish.

Parish Picnic – Tickets On Sale

This year’s Memorial Day Picnic is next Sunday, May 26th, from 2 until 10 p.m., at a new location—Holy Trinity Serbian Picnic Grounds in Castle Shannon. Tickets are \$10 for individuals and \$20 for families, and may be purchased by going to mpbojtickets.com or by scanning the QR code below. Tickets will also be sold at church, after both Sunday Masses until the 26th.

We will need many volunteers to help with food, drinks, activities, setup, cleanup and more. If you are willing and able to help, contact Mike at mike.konopelski@gmail.com.



Second Collection Today

The diocesan second collection today is for Catholic Relief Services, the Church in Latin America, the Church in Central & Eastern Europe, and the Church in Africa.

No Coffee or Donuts Today

With Catechism classes ended, there will be no coffee or donuts after the Low Mass today or next Sunday. They will return on June 2nd and continue until the end of August.

Mass Intentions Are Now Closed

All Mass intentions for the remainder of calendar year 2024 have now been reserved. Watch for an announcement in early fall, when the Mass intention calendar for 2025 will be opened to accept your requests.

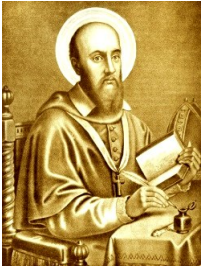
Introduction to the Devout Life

By St. Francis de Sales

Poverty of Spirit Amid Riches

(Book 3, Chapter 14)

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God;” and if so, woe be to the rich in spirit, for theirs must be the bitterness of hell. By rich in spirit I mean him whose riches engross



his mind, or whose mind is buried in his riches. He is poor in spirit whose heart is not filled with the love of riches, whose mind is not set upon them. The halcyon builds its nest like a ball, and leaving but one little aperture in the upper part, launches it on the sea, so secure and impenetrable, that the waves carry it along without any water getting in, and it floats on the sea, superior, so to say, to the waves. And this, my child, is what your heart should be—open only to heaven, impenetrable to riches and earthly treasures. If you have them, keep your heart from attaching itself to them; let it maintain a higher level, and amidst riches be as though you had none,—superior to them. Do not let that mind which is the likeness of God cleave to mere earthly goods; let it always be raised above them, not sunk in them.

There is a wide difference between having poison and being poisoned. All apothecaries have poisons ready for special uses, but they are not consequently poisoned, because the poison is only in their shop, not in themselves; and so you may possess riches without being poisoned by them, so long as they are in your house or purse only, and not in your heart. It is the Christian's privilege to be rich in material things, and poor in attachment to them, thereby having the use of riches in this world and the merit of poverty in the next.

Of a truth, my child, no one will ever own themselves to be avaricious;—every one denies this contemptible vice:—men excuse themselves on the plea of providing for their children, or plead the duty of prudent forethought:—they never have too much, there is always some good reason for accumulating more; and even the most avaricious of men not only do not own to being such, but sincerely believe that they are not; and that because avarice is as a strong fever which is all the less felt as it rages most fiercely. Moses saw that sacred fire which burnt the bush without consuming it, but the profane fire of avarice acts precisely the other way,—it consumes the miser, but without burning, for, amid its most intense heat, he believes himself to be deliciously cool, and imagines his insatiable thirst to be merely natural and right.

If you long earnestly, anxiously, and persistently after what you do not possess, it is all very well to say that you do not wish to get it unfairly, but you are all the time guilty of avarice. He who longs eagerly and anxiously to drink, though it may be water only, thereby indicates that he is feverish. I hardly think we can say that it is lawful to wish lawfully to possess that which is another's:—so doing we surely wish our own gain at the expense of that other? and he who possesses anything lawfully, surely has more right to possess it, than we to obtain it? Why should we desire that which is his? Even were the wish lawful, it is not charitable, for we should not like other men to desire what we possess, however lawfully. This was Ahab's sin when he sought to acquire Naboth's vineyard by lawful purchase, when Naboth lawfully desired to keep it himself;—he coveted it eagerly, continually, and anxiously, and so doing he displeased God. Do not allow yourself to wish for that which is your neighbor's until he

wishes to part with it,—then his wish will altogether justify yours,—and I am quite willing that you should add to your means and possessions, provided it be not merely with strict justice, but kindly and charitably done.

If you cleave closely to your possessions, and are cumbered with them, setting your heart and thoughts upon them, and restlessly anxious lest you should suffer loss, then, believe me, you are still somewhat feverish;—for fever patients drink the water we give them with an eagerness and satisfaction not common to those who are well.

It is not possible to take great pleasure in anything without becoming attached to it. If you lose property, and find yourself grievously afflicted at the loss, you may be sure that you were warmly attached to it;—there is no surer proof of affection for the thing lost than our sorrow at its loss.

Therefore, do not fix your longings on anything which you do not possess; do not let your heart rest in that which you have; do not grieve overmuch at the losses which may happen to you;—and then you may reasonably believe that although rich in fact, you are not so in affection, but that you are poor in spirit, and therefore blessed, for the Kingdom of Heaven is yours.

The Curé of Ars, the Musical

Saint Genesis of Rome Theater Group presents Dr. John W. Vitz's *The Curé of Ars, The Musical*. Based on the life of Saint John Vianney, this magnificent musical features the original setting of 19 fantastic vocal songs. The performances will be held at **Holy Family Manor**, 301 Bellevue Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15229 at **7:00pm on Thursday, June 13th, Friday, June 14th, and Saturday, June 15th**. The suggested donation is **\$5 per person**, with free admission for clergy, religious, seminarians, and children 10 and under. For more information, please contact Jude Young at 412-491-4415 or judeyoung4321@gmail.com.

Many Thanks to the Landscaping Team!

A great big “thank you” to the Landscaping Team for making the parish grounds so beautiful—the result of fresh plantings and much cleaning! Please be mindful of the new growth and watch where you and your children step, so the plants have a chance to grow big and healthy.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, May 26: Memorial Day Picnic

Saturday, June 1: Father Stephen Wetzel, First Mass & reception

Sunday, June 2 (11 a.m.): Corpus Christi Mass & procession

Saturday, June 22 (11 a.m.): Homeschoolers Graduation Mass

June 27 – 29 (Thurs. – Sat.): St. Veronica's Guild training session

Monday, July 1 (6:30 p.m.): 5th anniversary of the parish; Solemn High Mass and reception

Seven Sisters Apostolate

Seven Sisters Apostolate is seeking two additional women to pray a holy hour for our priests weekly on either Wednesday or Saturday, beginning the week of June 7th. The holy hour can be prayed at any parish church, at any time on the committed day. One time Adoration substitutes are also needed: sevensistersapostolate.org. Please contact Mary Catherine D'Souza for more information or to volunteer: marycatherinemullins@gmail.com

The Holy Cross Weather Blessing

From May 3rd to Sept. 14th (Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross), our canons give a blessing after Low Masses asking **God's protection against violent storms** that frequently occur during the summer months. The blessing is conferred with a relic of the True Cross. Copies of the prayer, in Latin and English, are found at the side entrance of the church.

To All Our Guests...

The Canons and faithful of Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish welcome you to our parish and to the Traditional Mass, celebrated in accordance with the classical Roman Liturgy. This personal parish was established by Bishop David Zubik on July 1, 2019, the feast of *The Most Precious Blood of Jesus*. Our parishioners come from all over the diocese for the prayerful tranquility of the Traditional Mass.

According to liturgical tradition, Holy Communion is received on the tongue, kneeling at the communion rail. Reception of Holy Communion is the sign of Divine and Ecclesial unity, so only practicing Catholics, free from mortal sin and who have observed the Eucharistic fast, should present themselves for Holy Communion. Visitors who are not of the Catholic Faith are welcome to join in prayer, but are requested not to receive Holy Communion. Those who need a low gluten Host should inform the usher, as they approach the Communion rail at the end of the distribution line for Holy Communion.

For more information about the parish, or if you desire to become a member of the Catholic Church, please contact the Parish Office at 412-761-1508. The pastoral care of Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish is provided by THE INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING SOVEREIGN PRIEST.

MASS INTENTIONS—*The Parish Mass Intention Registry* is currently CLOSED. Mass intentions are accepted during specific periods throughout the year, announced in the bulletin in advance of each such period. Instructions and forms are made available at that time.

PARISH NEWS—The parish uses **Flocknote** to circulate news and information. If you'd like to sign up, please text MPBOJ to 84576 from your cell phone and follow the instructions, or check the parish website (MPBOJ.com) for more information.

Sacramental Information

Infant Baptism: Baptism should be administered within two weeks of birth. Please call the Parish Office prior to the baby's birth, to begin arrangements.

Holy Matrimony: Couples planning to marry at the parish must contact the Parish Office at least six months in advance, to schedule an appointment to begin marriage preparation instructions.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation: School age students receive First Holy Communion and the sacrament of Confirmation as part of our Catechism Program. Please see the parish website for information regarding registration.

Extreme Unction/Anointing of the Sick: If you need the assistance of a priest for someone who is dying, please contact the Parish Office at 412-761-1508. If after hours, listen to the prompts and select option #1.

Funerals: The funeral home should directly contact the Parish Office to make Mass and burial arrangements.

Sacramental Certificates: Certificates for Sacraments administered prior to July 1, 2019 are maintained by the Diocese of Pittsburgh Archives Office (412-456-3158 or archives@diopitt.org). If the sacrament was received after July 1, 2019 at MPBOJ, contact the Parish Office at 412-761-1508.



Monsignor Lawrence DiNardo Celebrates Jubilee

Monsignor Lawrence DiNardo, pastor of Holy Wisdom Parish for the 25 years when our Latin Mass Community was in residence there, has just celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

Monsignor DiNardo was named Chaplain to His Holiness, Pope Francis, and received the title of Monsignor on August 13, 2023. We are grateful and blessed by Msgr. DiNardo's instrumental service to our parish and the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

Our canons and a delegation of parishioners from the "St. Boniface days" attended Monsignor's Jubilee banquet.

806001 - Most Precious Blood of Jesus

(Quarter-3 2023/2024)

OPERATING REVENUE:

Offertory Collections	808,158
Donations & Bequests	13,169
Fundraising	5,290
Other Income	5,266
	831,883

OPERATING EXPENSE:

Administration	285,787
Operations & Maintenance	240,434
Liturgical & Rectory	136,737
Religious Ed & School Subsidy	67,003
Social/ Outreach/ Other	25,091
Property & Liability Insurance	24,187
	779,239

OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT) 52,644

NON-OPERATING ITEMS:

Extraordinary Maintenance Expense	(14,103)
Net Third Party Collections	(163)
Proceeds from Insurance Claim (Net)	1,905
	(12,361)

FEATURED ASSETS and LIABILITIES at 3/31/2024

ASSETS:

Unrestricted Funds:

Cash	155,155
Deposit & Loan Operating Savings	8,905
	164,060

Restricted Funds:

Deposit & Loan Restricted Savings	-
Deposit & Loan Restricted Campaign	-
Parish Endowment Investment	-
Other Investments	-
	-

LIABILITIES:

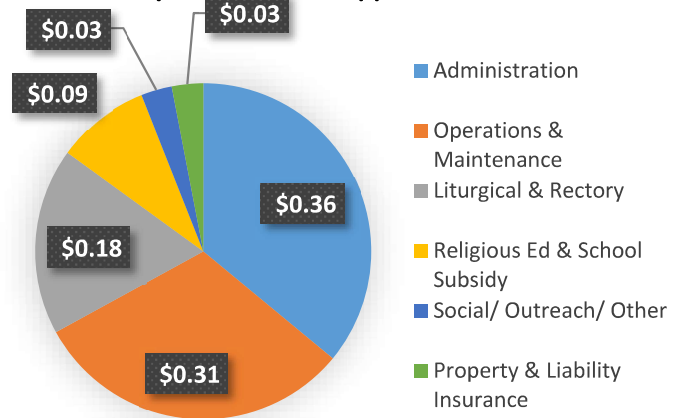
Insurance Past Due	-
Deposit & Loan Borrowing Debt	529,011
Other Payables	-
	529,011

Revenue vs. Expense for 7-1-2023 thru 3-31-2024

Revenue: **831,883**

Expense: **779,239**

How each Expense Dollar Supports the Parish



Line items include but are not limited to:

Offertory Collections: Offertory, Parish Appeal

Campaign Income: Capital Imp., Debt Reduction, etc.

Other Income: Interest Income, Hall Rentals, Votive

Administration: Staff, Supplies, Management Fee

Operations & Maintenance:

Staff, Church Utilities, Upkeep, Taxes, Supplies

Religious Ed & School Subsidy:

Staff, Supplies, CCD, Adult Ed, RCIA, Elem School Grant

Liturgical & Rectory: Staff, Worship, Rectory Upkeep

Social/Outreach/Other:

Youth, Community, Net Rental Property, Preschool

Extraordinary Maintenance Expense: > \$4,000

Net 3rd Party Collections: e.g. Holy Land, Peter's Pence

PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS.

Dear Faithful of Most Precious Blood of Jesus Parish,

With the third quarter of the fiscal year complete (3.31.24), please note the following financial State of the Parish:

Revenue of **\$831,883** is up 19% over the same nine-month period last year of \$696,479 due in part to inclusion of Parish Appeal for the period, where in previous years, Parish Appeal¹ (Parish Share) donations had been excluded from revenue. For a more detailed view of the last nine months, compared to the same period a year ago, please see the Statement of Cash Flows below.

<i>SUMMARY STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS</i>							
<i>For the Quarter Ending:</i>	<i>9/30/2023</i>	<i>12/31/2023</i>	<i>3/31/2024</i>	<i>6/30/2024</i>	<i>Current YTD</i>	<i>Prior YTD</i>	<i>CHG PY</i>
<i>BEGINNING CASH BALANCE (\$)</i>	127,781	116,601	143,183	-	127,781	366,426	(238,646)
Operating Income (All Donation Sources)	246,941	301,467	283,475	-	831,883	696,479	135,404
<i>Cash Available for Operations</i>	374,721	418,068	426,658	-	959,663	1,062,905	(103,242)
<i>Expenditures</i>							
Administration (net of Mgt Fee)	73,163	68,316	70,288	-	211,767	212,015	(248)
Diocesan Management Fee	24,673	24,673	24,674	-	74,020	24,673	49,347
Operations & Maintenance	78,138	78,782	83,514	-	240,434	261,982	(21,549)
Liturgical & Rectory	44,467	54,053	38,217	-	136,737	134,685	2,052
Religious Education (net of School Subsidy)	1,234	11,330	12,442	-	25,006	31,540	(6,534)
School Subsidy	13,999	13,999	13,999	-	41,997	47,451	(5,454)
Social Outreach (net of loan interest paid)	7,809	5,414	4,217	-	17,441	22,192	(4,751)
Property & Liability Insurance	8,062	8,062	8,062	-	24,186	24,187	(0)
D&L Loan Payments	6,962	6,962	6,962	-	20,885	2,321	18,565
Extraordinary Maintenance	-	5,315	8,788	-	14,103	177,105	(163,002)
Insurance Claim Proceeds (net)	-	(1,905)	-	-	(1,905)	(7,810)	5,905
Net Parish Share	-	-	-	-	-	(39,730)	39,730
Net Third Party Activity	(387)	(116)	340	-	(163)	13,986	(14,149)
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	258,121	274,885	271,503	-	804,509	904,596	(100,088)
Period Surplus (Deficit)	(11,180)	26,582	11,972	-	27,374	(208,117)	235,491
<i>ENDING CASH BALANCE (\$)</i>	116,601	143,183	155,155	-	155,155	158,309	(3,154)

Total Expenditures for the nine-month period are down 11% over the same period a year ago, yielding a Period Surplus of 3.3%. The current rate of parish family contribution has also grown to 73% of all parish families, up from 70% for the same period a year ago.

Presently the parish is undergoing construction of a new confessional on the epistle side of the church. When complete, the new confessional will offer easier access for the handicapped as well as the convenience of two penitents per priest for additional efficiency. Noteworthy have been frequent delays and obstacles during construction. The devil does not like confessionals, and so please pray earnestly for the carpenters that their work may proceed unhindered.

During the season of Our Lord's glorious Resurrection from death after the sacrifice of His Passion and Death on the cross, let us all the more be inspired to greater confidence in God who brings all things to good.

In Christo Rege et Maria,

Canon William Avis

¹ Published in the MPBOJ Quarterly Report 12.31.22: The Diocese of Pittsburgh has ended what has been known as the Parish Share Program which formulated our annual assessment, most recently at \$197,741 (\$130,836 parish, \$66,905 school subsidy) in 2022. A new management fee program, titled *Parish Appeal*, begins in February 2023. Most importantly, our assessment under the new structure has been reduced and fixed for the next three years at \$154,689 (\$98,693 parish, \$55,996 school subsidy) annually.

MPBOJ Donations Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

This document is intended to provide parishioners with information related to the financial affairs of the parish. If you have specific questions regarding donations or parish expenses, please contact the Parish Office at office@mpboj.com OR 412.761.1508.

- How does the diocesan Parish Appeal (formerly Parish Share) program work?*** The Diocese of Pittsburgh annually assesses every parish for the diocesan-based services it provides to each parish. The diocese provides various business support systems, such as accounting, payroll, human resources and parish legal work that the parish would be unable to afford and at a fraction of the cost if independently sourced. In addition, part of the assessment funds the diocesan Catholic schools. The assessment amount for our parish is currently set at \$154,689 (\$98,693 management fee; \$55,996 elementary school grant) where it will stay for 3 years.¹ Payment of this assessment is mandatory, and if the parish does not meet the assessment by specified Parish Appeal donations, the parish must pay with funds from its Operating Account to meet the shortfall. If interested in diocesan financial information, please use this link: <https://diopitt.org/financial-services>, which includes audited financial statements and the promise that: "No money from the offertory collection, special collections or annual Parish Appeal was used to fund the Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program for responding to abuse claims."
- We are anxious that the parish is going to go away, so why donate?*** It is vital for every Catholic to recognize that their blessings—whether skills, talents, or monetary wealth—are gifts from God and God alone. God knows best how that wealth should be reinvested in His Church. As Catholics, we are obligated to support our parish financially—whether the parish is around for 10 years or 100 years. God rewards the generosity of all donations. Please remember that Bishop Zubik invited the Institute of Christ the King to make the Traditional Mass and Sacraments available to us. He provided a place for our Mass and continues to support parish efforts in substantial ways. In 2022, MPBOJ completed the purchase of the entire campus (without having paid rent for over three years), funded by a 25-year, \$550,000 diocesan mortgage loan at 2.5% interest. Suffice it to say that the diocese is quite vested in our continued success as a parish.
- Parish finances are difficult to understand.*** In 2022, to address concerns that church finances were not transparent to parishioners, the Diocese began issuing a quarterly Standard Bulletin Financial Statement. This report, based on the parish financial records submitted monthly to the diocese, summarizes parish expenditures. Although it is not always easy to understand—some categories are unexplained and they even seem to overlap—Canon Avis uses the back page of this document to explain details that he feels may assist parishioners. To remain informed, parishioners are strongly encouraged to read the bulletin every week and to review these Standard Bulletin Financial Statements. If questions persist, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office (office@mpboj.com or 412.761.1508) so that we may assist with your understanding.
- How do earmarked donations work?*** On occasion, parishioners request that their donations be earmarked for a specific use—for example, church restoration, altar flowers, or the Catechism program. As an initial point, all collection monies are placed in the parish operating account, which funds all

¹ The Diocese of Pittsburgh ended what was previously known as the "Parish Share Program" at the start of 2023. One important change was how the parish assessment was calculated. MPBOJ was assessed at **\$197,741** (\$130,836 parish; \$66,905 school subsidy) in 2022. The new "Parish Appeal Program" saw a reduction in the parish assessment, to **\$154,689** (\$98,693 parish; \$55,996 school subsidy) annually. The parish realized a reduction from 26% to 18% of all income.

parish expenses. If money is earmarked for something specific, that money is coded in the parish accounting software for the earmarked use but is not placed in a separate fund. Although the parish attempts to honor these requests, our foremost responsibility is to pay our bills. Should a parishioner donate \$500 for altar flowers, that money will likely be used for flowers; however, should our heating bill exceed what is budgeted, donations earmarked for flowers may end up paying the gas bill. If you would like to directly pay for special parish expenses or projects, please contact the Parish Office for guidance. Importantly, please note that all donations made to the parish—whether earmarked or not—are assessed by the diocese in calculating the Parish Appeal amount. This cannot be avoided.

5. ***Do donations made directly to the Institute of Christ the King funnel down to the parish?*** Parishioners are understandably confused on this point. If you visit the Institute’s website, or access the ‘Donate’ button at the top of the parish website, three donation options appear—Pittsburgh Apostolate; Institute Restoration Fund; Institute Operations Fund. Donations made at this link do not come directly to the parish. Donations here are funneled to the Institute’s various accounts, and donations designated for Pittsburgh Apostolate are used to pay for expenses that the Institute would cover on behalf of the Pittsburgh apostolate. Canon Avis typically uses those funds for Institute expenses—for example, expenses related to the apostolate’s cars (i.e., repairs, insurance, gas), expenses related to the candidates’ training, vestments owned by the Institute. None of those funds are deposited into the parish operating account, so those donations are not used to pay the parish bills—for example, repairs to parish buildings, payroll amounts, Catechism Program expenses, property taxes, liturgical items or choir costs. Donations made through the website “Pittsburgh Apostolate” are not donations to the parish, and do not assist the parish with the mandatory, annual Parish Appeal assessment.
6. ***Why donate to Most Precious Blood?*** Currently, just over 70% of registered families contribute to the financial support of the parish. In its fifth year, the parish is now operating near breakeven (where Revenue is just covering expenses). The parish needs your donations for current expenses, and to provide funds to enable a future vision for the church. What would we do if the parish were no longer in operation? For those seeking a truly traditional parish community, with daily Mass and a full offering of the sacraments, and families focused on glorifying the Lord, MPBOJ is the only option within 70 miles. But it will only work if you give. For those parishioners who do not yet donate—please consider regularly doing so through Faith Direct at: <https://membership.faithdirect.net/PA678>. The link can also be found at www.mpboj.com in the middle of the main page in a RED box labeled “DONATE TO THE PARISH.” Please consider giving what you can to ensure the success of the parish.
7. ***What is SO special about our parish?*** On the surface we may seem like any other ICK or FSSP apostolate, but the truth is, MPBOJ is blessed to have been formed as Personal Parish (created purely for those that seek the Traditional form of the Mass, rather than a geographical parish formed for those in a specific part of town). As such, the faithful may join our parish regardless of where they live in the diocese. In addition to Sunday Mass, parishioners have full access to daily Mass & Confession, K-12 Catechism, RCIA training, altar server training, adult choir training, children’s choir training, weekly adoration & Compline, Confraternity of Christian Mothers, opportunities to volunteer in nearly any area of stewardship of the Church, Sursum Corda (young adult social), Respect Life Group, Men’s fellowship gatherings. In 2023, 56 faithful were confirmed and in 2024 there can be seen a wedding nearly every other weekend between Easter and Advent. The number of Sacraments administered weekly is staggering and the growth continues. The rarity of our existence cannot be understated. Knowing this, are you willing to contribute to the financial needs of the parish?