



# PEACE of CHRIST PARISH

ST. AMBROSE • ST. JAMES • ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

June 11, 2018

Dear Parishioners,

This past weekend at all of our Masses we announced our first Increased Offertory Program since 2016. Since that time, we have used our offertory fund to begin our *ChristLife* program, improved our sound systems, provided aid to the poor, tithed to area charities serving our people, educated hundreds of youth in our school and faith formation programs to perpetuate and grow the Catholic following, offered youth groups and senior luncheons, paved our parking lots, supported adult faith formation opportunities, procured candles and flowers for our churches, plowed, roofed and paid our personnel. There is a wonderful spirit of cooperation here at Peace of Christ Parish that enables us to meet the challenges that we face.

I know of no pastoral leader who enjoys raising financial issues. However, the reality of the matter is that when I was appointed to Peace of Christ Parish, I was entrusted with the financial as well as spiritual health of the parish. Peace of Christ Parish is a Catholic community of faith that serves the needs of thousands of people every year. We have an important role to play in Christ's ministry to the people of our swath of east central Monroe County. Because of this role, we must continue to support our ministries and programs so we can continue to serve our community. Our funds rose after 2016's appeal. However, last year without such a renewal, they stayed flat and did not keep pace with our increasing fixed costs of doing business.

Trusting in your understanding, I am now asking all us Peace of Christ Parish households to reflect on our offertory contribution. The brochure I've enclosed with this letter provides a tool for us to examine our offertory support. That level of support will vary, based on what is appropriate for our individual situation. No one can tell us what we can or should be giving. Only we can determine what level of support is best for each of ourselves.

Please take a few minutes and read over this brochure. It recommends that every family make a conscientious decision to provide regular, consistent support to their parish offertory. This support should be planned out in advance and it should be appropriate to the importance of your parish and your faith. The information in this brochure is intended as a guide for your decision making. It should be helpful as you make decisions about your support of the parish. Joining me by checking the box for "automatic transfer" will help us even more!

I ask you to think about this matter, pray over it, and discuss it with your family. Once you have determined what an appropriate level of support is for you at the present time, please fill out the response card and bring it to Mass with you next weekend. We will collect the cards then.

Peace of Christ Parish has a rich history of service to our community and a hopeful future. Your planned, consistent, and regular support of our parish offertory will help us to continue the programs and ministries that we offer. I thank you for taking the time to consider this matter and I appreciate your decision - whatever it will be. Please also be assured that you will be welcome at Peace of Christ Parish no matter what decision you make in this matter.

Sincerely in the Lord,  
*Rev. Robert J. Schrader*

Pastor