

Parish of Mater Christi

Drawing on the sanctifying strength of the Eucharist, we commit to work and pray for the deepening of faith in Jesus Christ through Worship, Evangelization and Service.



As I write this in early October, our parish of Mater Christi is humming with activity. Each weekend, more than 1300 worshippers gather at our four Masses. At a time when school enrollments around our diocese and across the country are plummeting, our parish school is healthy and strong, with an increase of nine students this fall and 25 over the last three years; we now have a total of 230 students in grades pre-K through eight. Our religious education program has 385 students for catechetical sessions and sacramental preparation. Sixteen people are under instruction as they prepare to join the Catholic Church or return after a lengthy absence. Our outreach to the poor and hungry has grown substantially, with Mater Christi's food pantry now helping to feed more than 100 families every month. And I am especially excited about a new program we are planning called Family Promise where, for four weeks a year, parish

volunteers will enable us to house a couple of homeless families in our parish center overnight during their struggle to achieve independence and homes of their own.

This explosion of Christian energy, of course, warms a pastor's heart. At the same time, the practical reality is that it costs us more and more money to capitalize on these opportunities to be of help. Last year, Mater Christi parish operated at a deficit of \$34,000, and we can't keep doing that endlessly. True, we still have some savings from the sale of the St. Teresa's property but that needs to be set aside for possible expansion in the future and for extraordinary capital expenses for our facilities, which are beginning to age after more than half a century. (Last year, for example, we spent \$93,000 on roof repairs.)

I dream of the many new endeavors we could try, if only the money were available. High on my agenda is a more comprehensive evangelization plan to attract new families from our neighborhood and, especially, to re-engage those many people who have fallen away from regular religious practice. (Our weekend attendance has dropped considerably over the last three years.)

To carry forward our mission as a parish, I have determined that there is need for a concerted effort to increase our Sunday offertory collection. (Last year, our collections were down four percent from the year before.) I know

that some families are themselves struggling financially and are doing all they possibly can. But I am counting on those who are able to make a sacrifice and increase their weekly donation.

Please review the contents of this brochure and consider how you can help our parish. The goal of this program is to increase our weekly collection substantially; parishes which have conducted similar programs have seen an increase of upwards of 20%.

Please take a look at the suggested guidelines for giving. A special Commitment Sunday will be held at our Masses on the weekend of November 8 and 9, when each family will be asked to make a prayerful sacrifice and complete a Commitment Card indicating their level of support for the work of Mater Christi parish.

Feel free to contact me directly with any questions you may have regarding this initiative. I can be reached by calling 489-3204 or by email at materchristi@nycap.rr.com.

Please know how grateful I am for the past generosity of so many in our parish; I know that often this has involved a real sacrifice. I thank you in advance for your understanding and your generous kindness.

With my love and gratitude,

Rev. Kenneth J. Doyle, Pastor



Online Giving

Our parish offers Online Giving, an additional option for contributing to the church. Online Giving is available for parishioners who would like to make donations online.

Parishioner Benefits

- Set up your own contributions
- Change your contributions at any time
- No need to write checks
- Contributions are scheduled; no need to make up missed contributions

Parish Benefits

- Overall contributions increase
- Convenient tool for members who do not write checks
- Simple setup and management
- Reduces security risk

Online Giving is not intended to replace the traditional act of Sunday offertory, rather it is meant to enhance it. You may continue to receive offering envelopes if you wish. Please prayerfully consider Online Giving. Visit our parish website at <http://www.rcda.org/churches/materchristi/> for more information or to sign up.

Parish of Mater Christi



Albany, NY

Joyful Living, Grateful Giving

A Financial Commitment to Parish of Mater Christi



Near the end of every fiscal year our parish leadership reviews the finances from the previous year. We review our current level of income and expenses and then estimate what can be allocated for current and future programs.

The planning process can be simplified through annual financial commitments from parishioners. The annual commitment provides information we can plan from. The parish staff can use this information to forecast ordinary income for the coming year and budget accordingly.

An Annual commitment is just that, a specific amount promised to the parish for the coming year. Many parishioners fulfill their commitment on a weekly basis using a church envelope placed in the Sunday Collection. The method of payment is up to you.

This Joyful Living, Grateful Giving Program is an effective method of parishioner support, allowing the parish to plan an annual budget and allowing you to budget your offering in a spirit of Stewardship.

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

Matthew 6:21

Guidelines for Giving

Please review the gift charts as you consider your commitment to Parish of Mater Christi. Each one of us has unique circumstances and income. The gift charts serve as a guideline to help you determine an appropriate increase based on your means. The charts should be within the means of most parishioners. Please carefully read this brochure and prayerfully consider your commitment level.

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on Income

Annual Income	5% Commitment (annually)/(weekly)	3% Commitment (annually)/(weekly)
\$100,000	\$5,000/\$100	\$3,000/\$60
75,000	3,750/75	2,250/45
60,000	3,000/60	1,800/36
50,000	2,500/50	1,500/30
40,000	2,000/40	1,200/24
30,000	1,500/30	900/18
25,000	1,250/25	750/15
15,000	750/15	450/9

Suggested Weekly Contribution Based on a Percentage Increase

Your Current Offertory Contribution	25% Increase	30% Increase	40% Increase
\$5.00	\$6.25	\$6.50	\$7.00
10.00	12.50	13.00	14.00
15.00	18.75	19.50	21.00
20.00	25.00	26.00	28.00
25.00	31.25	32.50	35.00
30.00	37.50	39.00	42.00
35.00	43.75	45.50	49.00
40.00	50.00	52.00	56.00
50.00	62.50	65.00	70.00
75.00	93.75	97.50	105.00

As a gentle reminder, the above gift charts are only suggestions. If everyone makes a commitment to the best of their financial ability, Parish of Mater Christi will be able to plan for the future accordingly.

How & When Will We Make Our Commitment?

Commitment Sunday will be held during Mass the weekend of November 8th and 9th. **You will be presented with a Commitment Card to complete and drop in the offertory basket. You may also take time to pray over your commitment and return it to the church within the next 10 days.** Your new commitment should begin with the next Sunday's offertory. If you are out of town or unable to attend Mass on Commitment Sunday, a Commitment Card and letter will be mailed to your home. A final Summary Report of the program will be shared with all families in the next few weeks. Your Commitment, no matter the increase, will be included in the final results. All commitments will be kept completely confidential and will not be disclosed in any way. Thank you for your generous support of our parish!

Parish of Mater Christi Statement of Income & Expenses

	Actual FY13-14	Budget FY14-15
Income		
Offertory collections	758,073	767,000
Rental income	88,062	86,317
Religious Education registrations/fees	14,960	14,400
Food pantry & outreach donations	27,715	24,300
Investment income	27,536	23,500
Other income	25,360	25,700
Total income - real & anticipated	941,706	941,217
Expenses		
Salaries & benefits	388,433	408,600
Tuition assistance for parish school	232,812	235,788
Tuition subsidy for All Saints Academy**	65,000	65,000
Maintenance, utilities, repairs, insurance	126,000	128,735
Religious Education	24,254	22,950
Food pantry & outreach	29,926	27,400
The Evangelist	21,506	21,500
Parish campus-wide supplies & upkeep	59,092	44,450
Parish liturgy, programs & equipment	18,349	17,100
Clergy & staff education, reimbursements	10,366	14,830
Total expenses - real & anticipated	975,738	986,353

***Net operating deficit - real & anticipated** (34,032) (45,136)

*Note 1 The deficit is covered by withdrawals from savings. Extraordinary items like unearned market value fluctuations in the parish investment accounts and unanticipated capital outlays for repairs and renovations are not included in the net operating deficit.

**Note 2 The tuition assistance for All Saints Academy is funded entirely by the rental income received monthly from St. Catherine's Center for Children use of the former St. Teresa's Convent.