

+
Saint Ephrem Church
5400 Hulmeville Road
Bensalem, Pennsylvania 19020

December 5, 2009

Dear Parish Family,

I come before you today to ask you for increased support of St. Ephrem Parish. Through my years here as pastor, I am indebted to all of you for your generosity, kindness, and understanding. You have always been willing to sacrifice for the cause of our parish community.

As you certainly realize, like yourselves, St. Ephrem Parish has been facing some financial setbacks. Some areas where we have seen decreases include the Sunday and Holy Day collections, the Scrip Program, the Cares Program, the Carnival, and the Bingo. Chief among the causes are decreased enrollment in St. Ephrem School, which has a domino effect on other programs. Also, with higher unemployment in the Township, we are experiencing a lack of discretionary income among our parish members. This influences spending, which limits the success of parish efforts.

Because of all of this, the parish stands to suffer a deficit for the current fiscal year. In the Sunday Bulletin each week, as you have noticed, there is a box indicating the previous week's collection amount. Then there is the statement that we need twenty thousand dollars to meet our current expenses. We are not collecting enough money to meet our weekly expenses. We are looking at every category to see what expenses we can reduce. In addition, I am approaching you to assist us with this immediate financial need.

I certainly realize that you are under constraints yourselves with the current economy such as it is. However, I place my trust in God's providence, and your generosity. I am asking, sincerely, that every parish family increase your Sunday and Holy Day collection amount by two dollars. For example, if you now give ten dollars, please make it twelve. If it's fifteen, it would become seventeen, and so forth. With this small increase and our cutback of expenses, together, we hope to eliminate the deficit.

I thank you for your anticipated generosity, and I ask God's abundant blessing upon St. Ephrem Parish.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Msgr. McAteer

Rev. Msgr. Kenneth P. McAteer
Pastor