



strengthening our faith

by rebuilding our heritage

November 2019

My dear parishioners,

This past weekend, members of the Parish Finance Council and the Parish Pastoral Council addressed the members of the parish community. I know many of you were not able to be with us in person so I wanted to share with you what they had to say:

We are here today to talk about the urgent need to address a steep decline in gifts and weekly offertory donated to the Cathedral, which threatens the great contributions our parish makes to the D.C. community we serve.

This past year alone, St. Matthew's has hosted over 200 events, such as our special Masses like the Red and White Masses, our Adopt-A-Family Programs for Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas, and our magnificent music programs featuring world-famous musicians.

We provided over 3,000 meals to the hungry through our Homeless Ministry and food drives as well as hundreds of visits to the sick and homebound. We also offered approximately 100 Spanish and English as a Second Language classes for 90 students per semester. And, we shared the Light of Christ with countless others through our RCIA, CCD, lectures, Bible studies, abuse scandal listening and healing sessions, and other Faith Formation activities.

As Monsignor Jameson wrote to you in his [October letter](#), contributions to the Cathedral have fallen dramatically in the last three years. Monsignor has over \$100,000 in unpaid bills on his desk right now, and through the end of September giving was below budgeted levels by an additional \$90,000. As a parish, we face a serious financial crisis and need your help.

The best way we can help make sure the Cathedral continues serving the community is for all of us to contribute as much as possible, every week. An extra \$10 to \$20 every week in new or increased giving will go a long way toward eliminating the deficit we face. Our parish has over 2,400 registered households, but fewer than one-third make an identifiable donation. If you are not currently giving to the Cathedral, please make a commitment today to contribute to the parish. If you are already giving, thank you and please prayerfully consider increasing your donations.

Volunteers are at the back of the Cathedral with more information about parish finances and information about Faith Direct, the online giving system that can be set up at the level of your choosing. There are also [Faith Direct](#) subscription forms in the pews if you would like to take one home (Church code DC284).

As you consider your support of the Cathedral, please remember the important, local work that your contributions make possible. Without your contributions to the Cathedral, these programs will not exist.

Thank you for your time and for considering how you can help support the Cathedral and its mission.

Please take to heart the seriousness of this plea. We need your help. If every parishioner would do his or her share, we would have no deficit. To those who are so generous each week, thank you. I am sincerely grateful. God bless you all. As a parish member—a team member—you can make a real difference. Thanks and God bless.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. W. Ronald Jameson,
Rector