

OPERATING REVENUE	2005-2006 Budget	2005-2006 Actual	2006-2007 Budget
Weekend & Holyday Collections	\$ 555,388	\$ 588,899	592,755
Offerings	20,256	23,966	22,480
Interest & Dividends	300	2,326	2,640
Religious Education Fees	66,400	80,747	81,450
National & Diocesan Collections	15,149	23,523	14,650
Development Revenue	34,500	90,725	53,300
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 691,993	\$ 810,186	\$ 767,275
OPERATING EXPENSES	2005-2006 Budget	2005-2006 Actual	2006-2007 Budget
Payroll & Employee Benefits	\$ 313,815	\$ 306,159	\$ 299,669
Household	10,000	12,712	10,704
Office Op. (postage, supplies, phone, contracted services)	32,624	42,067	30,802
Buildings & Grounds (landscaping, snow removal, repairs)	32,850	37,938	20,096
Utilities (gas, electric, water and sewer for all buildings)	36,226	42,248	57,826
Insurance (property & liability)	26,325	26,502	38,700
Ministries & Faith Formation (religious education, ministries, school subsidies)	65,435	81,073	74,970
Liturgy & Worship (altar bread & wine, sacred vessels, vestments, hymnals, liturgical books)	21,352	30,159	15,390
Charity & Social Concerns (including National & Diocesan Collections)	15,149	28,732	19,550
Major Renovations & Purchases over \$500	42,000	50,807	3,000
Liability Payments	56,000	** 0	60,000
Interest on Mortgages	28,500	25,183	24,775
Diocesan Assessments	72,000	40,000	72,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 752,276	\$ 723,580	\$ 727,482
LONG TERM LIABILITIES		2005-2006 Actual	
Debt Beginning Balance		\$ 1,079,231	
** Payments on mortgage (2005-2006)		61,346	
Debt Remaining		\$ 1,017,885	

Parish Vital Statistics

St. Cecilia Parish is able to sustain the quantity and quality of programs and ministries through the generous support of our parishioners. (figures from January 1, 2004 - December 30, 2005)

Registered Families: 1,396	People in Active Ministry: 400	Infant Baptisms: 44
First Communions: 78	Confirmations: 90	Marriages: 6
Adult Baptisms/RCIA: 4	Youth Ministry: 50	Funerals: 22
Religious Education Enrollment: 655		

St. Cecilia Church
Phone: 732-329-2893
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Stewardship Renewal

SAINT CECILIA CHURCH
10 KINGSTON LANE, MONMOUTH JUNCTION, NJ 08852

*Serve one another
as good stewards of God's varied gifts. 1 Peter 4:10*

Dear Friends in Christ,

The early pioneer days of our country are truly fascinating. Imagine the courage and fortitude of those early settlers of the North American continent as they struggled against great odds to carve out a life of freedom. How great their faith must have been as they tilled the soil, planted seeds, and prayed for rain and sun to nurture their crops. When the land brought forth the bounty of the earth which was their sustenance, they shared it with one another in genuine gratitude for what the Lord had provided.



The Lord's generosity still abounds today, of course, but modern technology and our fast-paced way of life seem to distance us from the fact. We are blessed to be sure—with family, friends, health, jobs, homes and possessions—all of it given to us by God. When we take the time to reflect on all that we have, we are overwhelmed. As Christians, we are called to express our gratitude for all that we have been given by sharing it in love and justice with others. That's stewardship.

Although the stewardship "way of life" extends to our families, communities and workplace, it is most noticeably experienced in the parish. It is here that we come together at the Eucharistic table as one body in Christ. It is here that we live out our baptismal promises and follow the Lord's command to feed the hungry, clothe the needy, visit and care for the sick and imprisoned, and share the message of faith, especially with our young people. Herein lies the mission of St. Cecilia Parish.

It is your generous response of time, talent and treasure—each as good stewards of God's varied gifts—that our parish can continue to:

- Assist the poor and disadvantaged in our community,
- Provide a prayerful environment and inspirational liturgies,
- Support our many essential and thriving ministries,
- Provide fair and just support for our employees,
- Ensure the best possible religious formation for our young people, and
- Maintain our beautiful facilities.

In the cycle of receiver and giver, it is our turn to be stewards of this gift that is our parish so that it will stand as a strong and steady harbor of faith for our community today and for future generations. As we conduct our stewardship renewal over the next few weeks, I invite you to reflect on the blessings in your life and honestly decide if you are giving proportionately in return. I pray that you will continue your Christian stewardship effort for our parish community and that it brings lasting rewards to your spiritual life.

Father Cronin

See our 2005-2006 Financial Statement on page 4.
For detailed information, go to our website:
www.stceciliaparish.net

The Mission and Vision of St. Cecilia Parish



St. Cecilia Parish has a vision and a mission that is amazing and exciting. We invite you to invest yourself through the resources God has given you—your energy, prayers, time, talent, and money—in this work God has called us to do.

We are committed to living the Gospel values and embrace and live the social teachings of the Catholic Church. One way we do this is through the St. Vincent dePaul Society, an organization of laypersons who live their faith by loving and serving others. Generally on a person-to-person basis, members of the Society help those in need, regardless of race, creed, sex, orientation, handicap or religion. We also reach out to the homebound, the aged in nursing homes, and the sick in local hospitals by offering a portion of our time to visit and bring Holy Communion.

We work to support holy and healthy families through our ministries of Baptism Preparation, Pre-Cana, Mother's Group, Prime Time Seniors, and the Ministry for the Divorced and Separated. The Pro-Life group seeks to protect every human life from conception to natural death through prayer and awareness campaigns.

Ministering to our young people is a high priority. Our goal is to promote faith formation that develops the whole person in Christian discipleship and moral leadership. Our fine programs of Religious Education and Youth Ministry teach our youth to know, live and model their faith.

The Liturgical Ministers support the Presider at Mass with the dignity and reverence befitting the source and summit of parish life. We gather to worship, offering back to God our gifts of time, talent and treasure, then go forth again to love and serve the Lord and one another.



We invite you to invest yourself through the resources God has given you—your energy, prayers, time, talent and money—in this work God has called us to do.

TAKE-A-STEP

In Giving Your Time, Talent & Treasure

When making your stewardship commitment, take small steps at first. Try to build on what you are already doing. For example, you can add to God's time through an extra half-hour of prayer, offer your talent in service to a parish ministry, and increase your financial contribution by even a small percentage.

The most important point is to reach a decision through prayerful consideration. The amount of time, talent and treasure you give should be an honest expression

of gratitude to the Lord for your many blessings.

Your commitments are between you and God. Don't feel guilty if you are unable to keep them in every respect. Stewardship is about continuing conversion. Just do the best you can, and ask God's help to get back on track when you need it.

Day by day you will move closer to God, be more at peace, and experience great spiritual joy.



The Challenge of Stewardship

As stewards, we turn the act of giving into a spiritual exercise by taking the time to reflect on how and why we give. Stewardship of treasure has five characteristics:

Planned—Spontaneous “pass the hat” giving is good, but intentional stewardship is the fullness of Christ's message. Stewardship planning requires time and thought to formulate a deliberate decision.

Proportionate—Proportional giving is a gradual move toward the ultimate goal of the biblical tithe, 10% of the “first fruits.” The Christian understanding of tithe is 10% of gross income; 5% to the local parish, 1% to the diocese, and the remaining 4% to other charities.



Sacrificial—Giving from our substance often requires a life change and a re-ordering of our priorities.

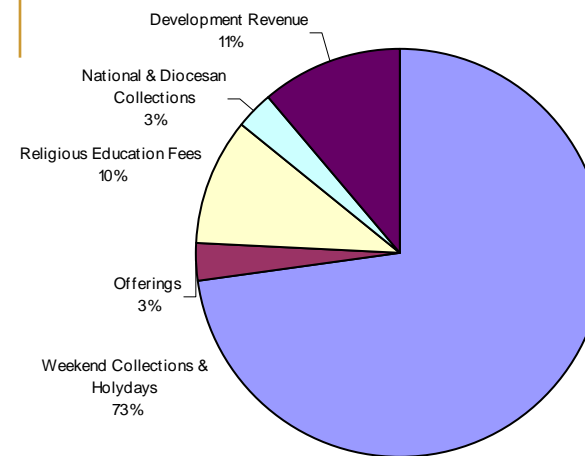
In Thanksgiving—The major motivation for offering our financial gifts is returning to the Lord in praise and thanksgiving.

Given Freely—A true gift is given “without strings attached” and without any expectation of something in return.



Where Does the Money Come From?

Parishioners don't always realize that the largest percentage of our parish income is from the weekly offertory envelope. The graph on the left illustrates the percentages of all of our resources.



Where Does the Money Go?

Our expenditures reflect the ideals of the Catholic Church and the mission of St. Cecilia Parish. Our priorities are liturgy and worship, ministries, faith formation for adults and children, charity, social concerns and just wages for our employees. And, by caring for our physical plant, we are preserving our legacy for future generations.

