

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE, FEBRUARY 2018

PRESENTED BY RICHARD CLARK, CHAIRMAN OF OLG PASTORAL FINANCE COUNCIL

On behalf of the Parish Finance Council and Pastoral Council, following is our semi-annual update on the state of the parish finances. Our primary focus this time will be on our *Weekly Offertory* and what that means. Recall our shared vision - "We are a vibrant, welcoming parish family dedicated to growing disciples and making church matter". St. John Paul II pointed to the local parish as the place where families encounter Christ in very real, practical and pastoral circumstances. We try our best to espouse these ideals in everything that we do here at Our Lady of Guadalupe. Our staff likes to refer to this commitment as the Our Lady of Guadalupe Difference. With this as our backdrop, we suggest that there is no better investment in the world than this local parish.

We want to reinforce that we are so grateful to you, our parishioners, for your faith and your commitment to all that we have achieved over the past several years, as evidenced by our beautiful church, chapel, parish life center and our soon to be beautiful courtyard. As a vibrant and growing parish, we have come a long way and *you* have helped us rise to every financial challenge that we have faced together as a parish. With that said, we once again rely upon your generosity and ask for your continued support and help with our *Weekly Offertory*.

As Catholics, we have a responsibility to support the material needs of the Church. We are in effect obliged to assist with the needs of the Church so that we have what is necessary to assist us with worship, ministry, service and charity to our neighbor. From our founding, we have always been a parish committed to giving of our time, talent and treasure. To that end, we need your help and commitment.

More to the point, you have heard me reference over the past couple of updates that we need to get our Sunday collections to \$32,000 per week to sustain financial solvency. Currently, we are averaging just over \$26,000 per week. As you are aware, we have a \$10.8 million-dollar mortgage for our church & chapel. The PLC and Courtyard are completely self-funded, thanks to your tremendous generosity.

To meet the monthly commitments, as well as to pay for our normal operating expenditures, our collections need to rise to \$32,000 per week by 2020. In that time period, we need gradual increases in collections which are consistent and sustained – which translates to a minimum yearly increase of 6.5% moving forward. In the current fiscal year, we are growing at a rate of 5.5%. But this goal is doable because remember, every challenge that has been placed before us in building this parish community, we have met and even surpassed.

So now, what do we need to do to begin the steps toward this goal of \$32,000 per week for our *Weekly Offertory*? We are asking you to look at your weekly offertory as a percentage of your income and asking everyone to increase your donations to the parish by 1% of your annual income. We understand that this may be a big jump for some, and may not be possible, but for many it is very doable. Others may be able to do even more. There is a handout in the bulletin that will assist you with your decision. Additional information will also be available as we move forward on our parish website and in the bulletin.

At a minimum, we are asking *All* OLG members to take another step toward stewardship with regards to your time, talent and treasure for our parish community. If we all work together we will surely meet our goal. We also ask that you consider **E-giving**, an easy, secure and consistent method of contributing to the parish. You can go to our website or the kiosks in the Narthex to sign-up.

Please know that we need everyone in this church today and those who weren't able to make it, to be fully aware of the situation and to be fully invested in the financial strength of the parish, and more importantly in its spiritual strength. Also know that the Finance Council is meticulous about monitoring our operating expenses and renews contracts with our vendors and suppliers with cost savings always at the forefront. Additionally, our Pastoral Council has as a top priority through the parish strategic plan to reach out to more members of our community to grow our parish, through specific and measured evangelization efforts and endeavors. You may already have noticed the increased attendance at Mass and other activities throughout the week.

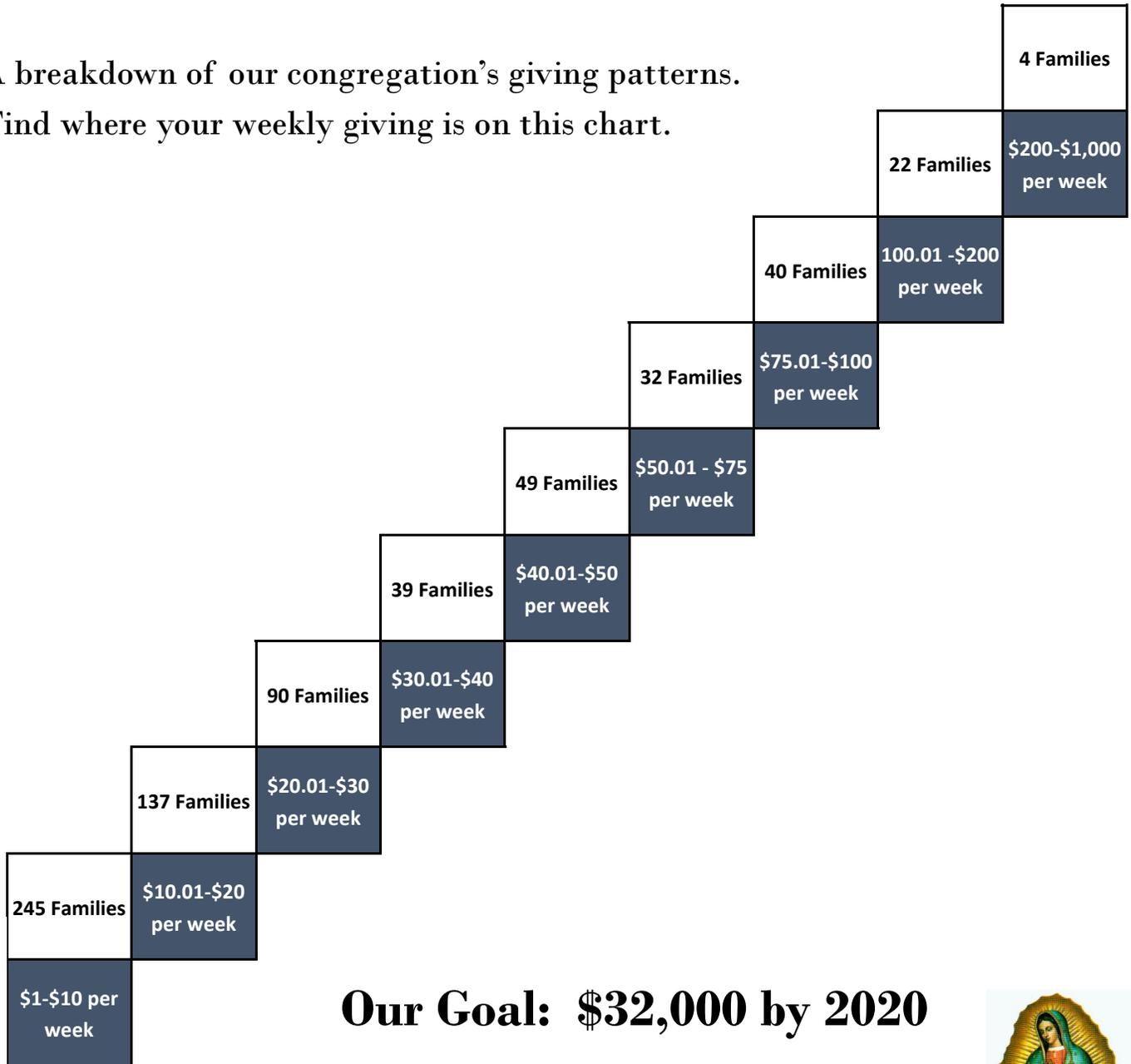
We all love our parish home here at OLG and the warm, welcoming environment that you feel every time you walk through the doors, encountering all of the vibrant ministries and services with which you interact on a regular basis. We want to keep this vibrancy alive and growing.

Thank you for your continued example in faith and commitment to our wonderful parish. God bless you and your families.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

2018 Weekly Offertory

A breakdown of our congregation's giving patterns.
Find where your weekly giving is on this chart.



Our Goal: \$32,000 by 2020

**Will you consider increasing
your weekly offertory by
1% of your income?**

