

**THE PARISH STAFF OF ST. JOSEPH, FINANCE COUNCIL, AND BISHOP WOULD
LIKE TO EXTEND OUR THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERFUL COMMITMENT
AND GENEROUS DONATIONS.**

Thank you to all who so generously gave to our 2018 Diocesan Annual Pastoral Appeal (APA)! Your contributions helped us to achieve 90% (\$102,977) of our total assessment of \$114,036. The shortfall of approximately \$11,000 will be paid by the parish out of our operating account. I am truly grateful to all of you for your faithful stewardship in supporting the pastoral work of this local parish and diocese!

Now, we are ready to kick off the 2019 APA. The theme this year is **“Be Courageous live the gospel through the APA.”**

It emphasizes that our mission as a Church is to reach out to all in need, not because they are Catholic, but because WE are Catholic. It's who WE are...it's what WE are called to do!

Our assessment for this year is a little over \$125K. Together let's work on getting more parish households to make a gift to this year's APA. Just think, if every household in our parish makes a one-time gift of \$120, we will be well on our way to making this year's goal. I want to encourage every household who did not make a gift last year to make a gift this year of \$120. It is only \$3 dollars per week.

To those who gave last year, I ask that you match last year's gift and if you are able, to perhaps increase your gift this year. But most importantly, we all need to give! And if we exceed our goal, the surplus donations will come right back to us here at St Joseph's.

If you have never given to APA before, now is the time to learn how your sacrificial gift can benefit our local Church. I have made my gift to this year's APA, and I ask you to join me in making your gift as well.

You should have received (or will shortly receive) information in the mail about this year's APA and your pledge commitment card. If not, pledge cards are available in your pews. You can mail your pledge card or drop it in our offertory basket.

You can even pledge on-line (by visiting our parish website). If you need help doing this, please let us know - the office is open all week, from 8-4. Prayerfully discern what financial gift you can give to support the pastoral work of our local Church—The Diocese of St. Petersburg. Your gift to APA will help support our seminarians studying for the priesthood, provide the necessary resources for pastoral outreach to mothers in crisis pregnancies, and help promote Catholic education through tuition assistance programs. These are just a few of the many ways that your APA gift will be used. I encourage even our seasonal parishioners to give because while you are here, you directly benefit from the pastoral resources of our diocese. Thank you again for your generous support of our Annual Pastoral Appeal and may God bless our efforts in 2019!

I have a challenge for you this year...I challenge our parish to complete our APA goal by October, then we don't have to talk about APA for four months. You can check our progress in the bulletin, on our website, and on the APA board at the back of the church.

Thank you for being part of the blessing!

Fr. Allan Tupa