



Saint Stephen's Parish

Park Square ▪ 67 East Street ▪ Pittsfield, Massachusetts 01201

OUR MISSION is to be the heart and hands of Christ: nourishing people, transforming lives.

April 22, 2026

Dear Fellow Parishioners.

Happy Earth Day! I am writing this from coastal North Carolina and I can assure you that there is a spring without snow flurries in our future, as I witness it now.

This is the Treasurer's newsletter about the 1st Quarter parish finances. Allow me to thank each of you for the continued pledge payments, plate donations and other gifts which the Parish has received. Your generosity and commitment continue to buoy us, as many expenses continue their upward trajectory. Your spirit of giving allows us to enjoy our spiritual home and continue our parish's missions.

I (JCP) continue to enjoy working with Al Symonds in the role of *Assistant Treasurer*, who knows the job better than I do from past service. He offers a steady hand through thick and thin (rather, red and black ink). I especially appreciate his support.

So here is a summary of our 1st three months report on the Operating Budget. On the *income* side, we received \$ 136,303, which is (+) \$ 14,372 ahead of the \$121,931 which we budgeted for year-to-date (March 31). Each year, some pledge payments come in ahead of schedule, so this extra amount is predictable. Also predictable is that this rate of income comes down in the second half of the year. Then it is a race to see if we meet or exceed our expectations by year's end.

On the *expenditure* side we budgeted to spend \$121,837, but actually spent \$140,350, which is (-) \$ 18,513 more than anticipated. Some of this is because March had an extra pay period, which makes personnel expenditures appear worse than they really are, as this evens out over the next 3 months. Some of it is expected, as a long and cold winter front-loaded our heating expenses, which will diminish greatly over the next 6 months, before picking up again. Finally, property expenses (including repairs) took a disproportionate amount from what we budgeted for the whole year.

Overall, we are - \$ 4,047 behind where we estimated that we would be at this point in the year. This is very close to being on target, as the remainder of the year gets us closer to our projected deficit for the year of (-) \$ 95,600. This highlights the importance of decreasing costs, whenever feasible, and to look for increased revenues, if possible. If you have ideas, I and the Finance Committee would love to hear from you.

Best Wishes, as we all look forward to May flowers and a wonderful Spring.
- J. Christopher Perry, M.D., *Treasurer*
- Al Symonds, *Assistant Treasurer*