

IF YOU DID NOT RECEIVE THIS MESSAGE BY E MAIL ON MONDAY MAY 24 PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE ON THE PARISH E MAIL LIST BY GOING TO OUR WEB SITE HOME PAGE www.stmarksnj.org and submit your e mail...if it is in the system then you might need to check to see if the message went to SPAM.

Dear Parishioners of St. Mark's,

In February we made our financial presentation in church that followed a letter sent to you in January. I wrote in the bulletin that I was not the type to continue to speak about money. I just wanted to send you this e-mail before the Memorial Day weekend to give you a brief summary of the last four months. There is really no need to go into the background suffice to say that we were hurt by the downturn in the economy like many others and thus the reason for our presentation and challenge to you.

There are four areas that I would like to address:

1 – Our weekly collection: Our needed goal is \$5820 – if we reach this each week we would be doing really well. Unfortunately over the past months we have not reached that except for a couple of times. The good news is that our collection total has increased and this is a sign that our parishioners are really trying.

2 – Our food gift card program: This has really taken off and has been a helpful supplement each week. I would encourage you to please use the food gift cards for your shopping. We now also offer Weis markets in addition to A & P and Shop Rite. Thank you to all those who help with this program!

3 – Our CEC registration: By the May 15th deadline we had about 70% of our registrations in. This helped us get an idea of how many children we have to plan for and it also brought in money for the CEC program that we have in hand for our expenses. I would urge those families who have not yet sent in their registrations to please do so. Our Diocese also gave us monies through a grant that helped us keep the cost of the registration fees lower than we expected.

4 – SUMMER TIME...ON LINE GIVING ... this is our biggest question mark (?) and our *most "critical" time* ... We need to keep our summer collections consistent...we need you to sign up for on – line giving at least for the time you will be on vacation. To do so go to our website www.stmarksnj.org and follow the easy instructions. This fourth area is something that we really need to succeed because we cannot afford to take from our savings to cover our bills. If we have to do so we really will only hurt ourselves and the good efforts made so far in the past four months.