

Immaculate Conception Church

2310 Robertson Avenue
Norwood, Ohio 45212

December 3, 2017

Dear Immaculate Conception Church Parishioners and Friends,

Today, we begin our 6th Annual Christmas Appeal, which will be in progress through the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6th. The appeal has grown significantly -- even dramatically -- over the years, from about \$76,000 in 2012 to \$294,000 last year. In doing so, it has exceeded all expectations! This annual drive has become an integral part of our financial stability. I attribute this to your remarkable generosity and I'm confident that God continues to reward you for it.

We set last year's goal at \$225,000, but exceeded it by 30%. Close consideration of our budget for this year shows that raising a Christmas Appeal amount of \$250,000 will serve the church's financial needs for 2018 and, with added care, should provide some allowance to cover the unexpected roof leak or boiler repair for our old, beautiful and venerable building -- an authentic vintage traditional Catholic church.

I, therefore, confidently set this year's goal at \$250,000. In the course of achieving this monetary goal, it also is quite important to achieve *another important goal*, as well: that every member of our church contribute to the cause. Why is it not enough that we simply meet or exceed our target number, whether it be through the generosity of one donor or a hundred? Why is it so important that *everyone* chip in? Because it is God Whom we want to please by this Christmas Appeal, and God Himself is moved by generosity: "God loves the cheerful giver." Giving shows appreciation and gratitude. At a time when a perverse sense of entitlement is rife in the world, Saint Paul admonishes us with the words "and be ye thankful!" So you see, as important as it is that we achieve the monetary goal, it is also important that we reach the spiritual goal of a church united in expressing gratitude by the fact that everyone contribute something, whether it be from the few coins of a child's weekly allowance or a few dollars earned by a teenager's chores or a few hours' pay from a young adult's job ... however great or small in terms of dollars and cents, it can all be of even greater measure in terms of numbers of souls.

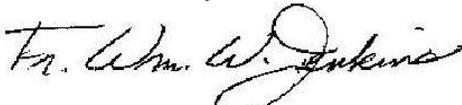
Thus, you can help in two ways:

1. Please join us at the church in offering the daily Prayers for the Spiritual and Temporal Needs of the Church and Academy on weekdays, at 7:45 am before school, and after Mass on Saturdays and Sundays. When you cannot do so in the church, be sure to offer the prayers at home with your family!
2. Please *make* a financial gift. Everyone's support matters and no gift is too small. We are each called to give according to our own means. We would be blessed to have every wage earner in the parish contribute to our Christmas Appeal. Pray for God's request of you.

Please use the designated Christmas Appeal envelopes to mail or place your donation in the collection basket. You may also give online at www.icaohio.com/index.php/support/christmas-appeal or on mobile through Venmo (Group Name: Immaculate Conception Norwood)

Your generosity will help secure the future financial stability of Immaculate Conception for generations to come. Pray about this request and please respond as generously as you can. I shall offer the High Mass on the Sunday within the octave of the Feast of the Epiphany for your intentions, in gratitude for your generous support.

Praying that God may God bless you this Advent season,
I remain faithfully in Christ,



[Rev.] William W. Jenkins

To view this year's video, visit
www.icaohio.com/index.php/support/christmas-appeal!