

St. Jude Parish
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August 22, 2023

Dear Parishioners and Alumni,

I'm glad to update you on how things stand at St. Jude since the Town Hall meeting on April 23. There are a number of good and uplifting things to report, as well as a few setbacks since that important gathering.

Prior to the Town Hall meeting, church attendance was on a steady decline, but the trend appears to be changing for the better. In the coming months, with the cooperation of everyone, and by God's grace, the trend will continue. Please spread the word that St. Jude is a welcoming and faith-filled community and bring a friend to church!

In addition to the encouraging trend in the number of people in the pews, there has also been a slight increase in the weekly offering. This increase will help us to avoid closing due to not being able to afford our basic upkeep. We depend on the generosity of our parishioners and alumni to allow St. Jude to pay its bills.

Another encouraging development is that about eight individuals have newly volunteered to various functions in the church, including fundraising, lectoring, joining the choir, and becoming members of the hospitality team. These are signs of life, progress, and hope in our St. Jude family. The Lord calls us to various ministries and it is good to be open to God's call.

Yet another hopeful sign is the fact that for three consecutive years, St. Jude has not only met its C.S.A. quota from the Archdiocese, but actually surpassed it! Every dollar after meeting the quota comes back directly to the parish, and your support is very uplifting to behold. Please visit aod.org/catholic-services-appeal and give what you can to help.

One setback, however, remains the steady loss of parishioners due to old age and death. Although this process of attrition is unavoidable, it should compel all of us to increase our effort to bring new members to the church. Bring your families, including grandchildren, to be inspired by our beautiful icon. Without a doubt, it is a church of charming architecture that cannot be replicated nowadays. Everything humanly possible should be done to preserve it for the future.

We also want to encourage cooperation and collaboration between our church community and the ministry at Deo Gratias, located in the former St. Jude convent. The Felician sisters are doing a beautiful outreach in this area of Detroit.

So what can you do to help our St. Jude Parish? First, pray for us. Second, get involved! Also, support us. Our current C.S.A. drive for 2023 is in need of support, and we are selling St. Jude raffle tickets for our annual fundraiser. Finally, mark your calendar for two special events:

- **September 10 Alumni Mass** 10:30 a.m. followed by refreshments and tours of Deo Gratias and the former St. Jude School. If you are interested in touring the former school, please register at signupgenius.com and search for stjudedetroit@hotmail.com or send an email to the St. Jude address.
- **October 29 St. Jude Feast Day Celebration Liturgy** at 10:30 a.m. with Bishop Donald Hanchon presiding, and a light lunch to follow. We will also have our annual St. Jude Novena from October 20-28.

As the African proverb reminds us, "It takes a village to raise a child." In the same vein, it will take the collective efforts of all who value and cherish St. Jude Parish to keep it open and viable.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,



Fr. Michael C. Nkachukwu

Pastor, Trinity Family of Northeast Detroit