

Good News is for Sharing!

We have some good news to share! Thanks to your incredible generosity and sacrifices throughout the past year, we have met all the conditions of the \$350,000 Challenge Grant for 2017 (first announced about 14 months ago). **Every** person and **every** gift made a difference in making this possible, no matter how large or small – because we know they were **all** sacrificial gifts relative to the personal situation of each family.

Although we **never** lost hope or stopped praying, we witnessed how the good people of our parish, once again, came together and made remarkable personal sacrifices for **our** beloved parish of St. Mary Magdalen. People were coming out of the woodwork to help us get “over the top.” We are so grateful for all your goodness and generosity. The preliminary count shows **1,415** households turned-in Sacrificial Giving commitment cards for 2017 (we needed 1,400 and that represents nearly 100% of our active registered households). Counting visitors, those who have moved or who are now deceased and people from outside the parish -- including Christmas and Easter, a preliminary grand total of **2,967** households made donations to the Sunday and Holyday offertory sometime during the last calendar year (an increase over 2016) – **all of them** making it possible for us to surpass all the requirements in the final hours of the year.

Once again, we thank **all** of you a hundred-fold, **including** the parishioner family who anonymously offered the \$350,000 grant (a married couple from our community in the form of a bequest after the end of their joint lives). This grant money (an answered prayer) will play a critical role in helping us with our long-term funding needs. In the short term, our parking lot resurfacing project (which includes a number of required code and accessibility improvements) is budgeted for \$364,000. Thankfully, this large immediate cost will be partly offset by the \$258,000 in increased regular offertory giving that took place in calendar year 2017. **Together**, we are doing something beautiful for God. God Bless you all -- both today and throughout 2018!

Newest 2018 Challenge Grant information at our parish website:

All Sacrificial Giving donations made during the 2018 calendar year (to the regular Sunday and Holy Day offertory) will help us toward meeting the requirements of the newest \$375,000 Challenge Grant for the period ending 12/31/2018. First announced in late October of 2017: “In gratefulness to our good and generous God, a married couple from our community just offered our parish a \$375,000 challenge grant that could help us tremendously with St. Mary Magdalen's long-term funding needs (in the form of a bequest after the end of their joint lives). It is an answer to our prayers! The couple stepped forward in faith offering our largest challenge grant ever to encourage and "challenge" all of us to pull together to both increase our giving and expand the number of families participating in Parish Sacrificial Giving through the pledging process.” If you have any questions, please call Lois Locey in the Parish Office at 407.265.2317.

www.StMaryMagdalen.org/Stewardship/Challenge.htm