



**"THE PATH TO HEALING,
BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS"**

Jesus with hand extended represents Jesus opening Himself to us, to follow Him and how He is always ready to forgive us.

Dove with an olive branch represents extending peace to others to begin the healing process on the journey to forgiveness.

The Three Crosses represent how Jesus forgave the criminal who was crucified with Him; how Jesus forgave those who put him to death. Jesus died to forgive the world of its sins.

Bible & Rosary represent the supporting tools we need for our journey of healing and forgiveness.

Praying Hands represent the work of prayer and communication with God during our journey.

Light of Christ Church

Very Rev Jacob Monteleone, V. F. Pastor,

Rev. Robert Kuzmann, Parochial Vicar

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**Light of Christ
Church**



**Our Year in Review
2002 / 2003**



...Letter from the Pastor

My dear friends of Light of Christ,

During this past year ending June 30th, our parish was blessed in countless ways. First and most importantly, I want to thank each one of our parishioners, for choosing Light of Christ as your place of worship. You have truly made our theme come alive as a “Welcoming, Worshipping Community.”

I have seen this expressed in so many ways such as a smile on your face, a warm ‘hello’ to a fellow parishioner, or a gentle handshake. You have made our church a loving and vibrant community, expressed through your stewardship of worship and carrying out of Jesus’ message through our many loving ministries. You have been Jesus to your neighbor. Keep up the great work!

Let me cite a few blessings during our year.

Our worship environment has been greatly enhanced by the beautiful stained glass windows which reflect the life of Jesus, the seven sacraments and the Blessed Trinity. The natural light that comes through reminds us of our parish namesake, Light of Christ.

The scriptural based narratives, called the “Sacred Liturgy Series”, which were presented before each weekend Mass last fall enhanced our appreciation of the Mass. As a side result, sales of bibles in our Good Shepherd Catholic Resource Center increased dramatically.

The Mission presented by Father Daniel has to be noted as a highlight of the year. It culminated in large numbers of people participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I hope the Mission experience is being carried forward and continues to renew all of our lives each day. The Mission was the result of untold hours of work by dedicated volunteer parishioners.

The year also saw a change in parochial vicars (assistant pastors). Father Peter returned to his native India in July after four years of dedicated service to our parish. We miss him. By that same token, we are blessed with the presence of Father Kuzmann whose numerous talents include the gifts of teaching and preaching.

Light of Christ Church Statement of Revenue & Expenditures For the Fiscal Years Ending June 30 2003 and June 30 2002

<u>Operating Revenues:</u>	June 30, 2003	June 30 2002	Budget 03/04
Parish Offertory Collections	\$1,032,534	\$1,175,819	\$1,026,213
Diocesan Offertory Collections	19,378		20,150
B.A.P.A. / Journey in Faith Campaign*	99,801	88,537	75,000
Bazaars and Bingo	29,448	47,617	64,000
Bus Revenue, Interest and Other Income	84,905	93,265	80,547
Designated Contributions	133,105		
<i>(i.e. stained glass windows, St Anthony statue)</i>			
Early Childhood Center Revenue	<u>280,717</u>	<u>226,527</u>	<u>337,067</u>
Total Operating Revenues	1,679,888	1,631,766	1,602,977
 <u>Diocesan Expenditures:</u>			
B.A.P.A. Assessment*	189,439	0	186,141
St Cecilia Subsidy	97,035	111,196	76,923
Other Diocesan Collections & Assessments	<u>30,212</u>	<u>41,887</u>	<u>31,650</u>
Total Diocesan Expenditures	316,686	153,083	294,714
 <u>Parish Expenditures:</u>			
Salaries, Taxes, Benefits, excluding EEC	468,079	566,832	462,119
Office Expenses and Advertising	40,701	73,262	33,487
Religious Education & Parish Programs	62,110	83,336	62,244
Liturgical Supplies	24,576	28,582	19,043
Early Childhood Center	279,912	256,709	337,067
Utilities, Maintenance, Insurance, and Bus	282,189	354,385	305,070
Traffic Control	30,092	36,690	12,170
All Other Expenses	<u>250,637</u>	<u>108,992</u>	<u>167,688</u>
Total Parish Expenditures	1,438,295	1,478,788	1,398,888
Operating Deficit	(75,093)	(105)	(90,625)
Revenue from Bequests	135,318	334,435	90,625
Surplus of Revenues Over Expenditures	60,225	334,329	-

* These lines include amounts paid by parishioners directly to the Diocese.



Dear Parishioners,

Overall, the financial condition of the parish improved by \$60,000 last year. We were also able to install new stained glass windows and new doors that were funded 100% through memorial donations. But everyone should be aware that there were some definite downward trends. The number of registered families was down 9%, Mass attendance was down about 9%, and offertory collections were down 12%. In addition, the Bishop's Annual Pastoral Appeal returned. Remember that for fiscal 2002 BAPA was included in the Bishop's Journey In Faith Campaign and the parish was not required to make a direct contribution to the Diocese because parishioners responded in a generous manner.

These financial challenges were offset by a \$173,000 reduction of parish operating expenses for the year. The net result was an operating deficit of \$75,000. However, bequests of \$135,000 created a surplus of total revenues over total expenditures of \$60,225. We had no choice but to use \$75,000 of these bequests to cover our operating deficit, however, the excess was deposited in our Capital Improvements Fund which now stands at \$677,057.

Some sorely needed capital improvements have been postponed in order to avoid spending significant sums of money while experiencing the negative trends mentioned above. However, over the next year, you will probably see a modest remodel of the parish hall and new lighting in the church. Other capital projects will also be considered. It is only appropriate that we spend bequests in this manner. If we continue to practice the stewardship of our time, talent, faith, and treasure, in a short period of time our operating deficit will become an operating surplus.

Please note that in an effort to increase communications regarding parish finances, our budget for fiscal year 2003-2004 has been published as a third column in our financial statements. It is a conservative budget that can certainly be achieved, and possibly exceeded. Please continue to pray for your parish, that we can all contribute to building the kingdom of God.

May God bless you and Saint Joseph protect you.

Fr. Jacob Monteleone

Members of the
Parish Finance Council

We continued to stress the need to guide our young people on their journey to adulthood. We are fortunate to have wonderful volunteers helping to bring the message of Jesus to children of all ages. We especially thank all parents for taking the time to grow your children's spiritual life.

I am especially grateful for our Parish Pastoral Council, a group of 14 lay people who meet regularly to help me plan and carry out our parish activities. More about the Pastoral Council and its seven operating commissions is on the parish web site, www.locchurch.org.

Last year the Council explored the challenges that we need to address as a parish. As our volunteers move forward on many fronts, we hope to do a better job of communicating among ourselves and with our parishioners. Suggestions and comments are invited at our "We Are Listening" mailbox (located next to the southwest door inside the Parish Hall) and at wearelistening@locchurch.org.

And now, we move forward into a New Year, one we are calling "A Year of Healing and Forgiveness." I pray it will be even more successful than the year just concluded. All of us, being human, have offended God and others in our lives. Let us all take this year to examine our lives; to ask "Our Father...to forgive us our trespasses..."; to heal any relationship that needs healing; to ask forgiveness of others if we have offended them. Let us work on changing ourselves through prayer, the grace of God, and the Sacraments.

We have much to be thankful for. I especially want to thank you all for making Light of Christ special! May God Bless you and St. Joseph protect you.

Fr. Jacob





Our Parish Profile

Over 600 parishioners volunteered more than 45,000 hours of their time & talent at Light of Christ last year!

Total Registered Families	2,627
Total Catholics Residing in Parish	5,254
Baptisms (birth through RCIA)	54
First Communion (children & adults)	78
Marriages	13
Deaths	104
Early Childhood Center Enrollment	81
Eucharistic Visits to Homebound	2,963
Eucharistic Visits to Nursing Homes	1,562
Sick Calls By Priests to homebound / nursing Homes	1,032
Visitation by Eucharistic Ministers to nursing homes	1,372

