

**The Collaborative Parishes of Saint Theresa of Avila and Saint John Chrysostom
4750 Washington Street
West Roxbury, MA 02132
(617) 325-1300**

Dear Parishioners and Friends of Saint John Chrysostom Parish,

November 17, 2023

I write today to invite your participation in and support of the 2023 Grand Annual Collection. This yearly undertaking is the single most significant means, other than the weekly Offertory Collection, by which we, through your generous commitment, are able to raise the funds necessary to provide compassionate pastoral care, celebrate beautiful and uplifting liturgies, maintain our church, parish house and grounds, and, quite simply, continue to carry out the mission and ministry of Christ Jesus, Our Lord, in collaboration with our neighboring Parish of Saint Theresa of Avila and in communion with Cardinal Sean and the Archdiocese of Boston, right here in our little corner of West Roxbury.

As we move forward into the New Church Year which begins in just over two weeks with the First Sunday of Advent and on into the New Year of 2024, Father Charlie Higgins, Deacon Brian Kean and I, along with our pastoral staff members and volunteers, look forward to working together with you to build up and strengthen our parish communities. We will be continuing to reorganize our parish Pastoral and Finance Councils, and we hope to benefit from participating in an Archdiocesan-sponsored opportunity to implement The Grateful Disciples Stewardship Program to welcome back our many old friends and invite many more new folks to join us in worship, fellowship and service. We want to work towards increasing our numbers of in-person congregants at our Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses. We, like many parishes in the Archdiocese of Boston, are now only welcoming roughly fifty percent (50%) of the parishioners at weekend Masses as we were pre-pandemic in 2019. With your ongoing support as we put the Grateful Disciples Stewardship Program into practice during 2024, we very much look forward to building up and strengthening our parish communities. Your continued financial support of Saint John Chrysostom Parish and in particular of this 2023 Grand Annual Collection will allow us to be in a strong position to move forward into a future which we can build together with God's guidance and grace.

Some folks have asked how much money they should contribute to the Grand Annual Collection. As in most situations, there is no "one size fits all" answer. I simply invite each family to prayerfully consider your own ability to make a sacrificial offering. As a guide, in light of the demographics of our parish community, I would respectfully ask each working family to contribute Three Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$350) to the Grand Annual if your circumstances allow.

Enclosed with this letter is the Return Envelope for the 2023 Grand Annual Collection which will kick off with a Special Collection at all of our Parish Masses on the Thanksgiving Weekend of Saturday, November 25th and Sunday, November 26th. Recognizing that a substantial gift may not be possible in one lump sum, we will be gratefully accepting Grand Annual Collection contributions through the last weekend of the year, Saturday December 30th and Sunday December 31st.

With gratitude for your support through your gifts of time, talent and treasure, and with the assurance of an ongoing remembrance of you and all whom you hold dear in my Masses and prayers during the approaching Advent and Christmas Seasons, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Reverend John J. Connolly, Jr.
Pastor