

**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 18, 2022

I write today to invite your participation in and support of the 2022 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.

Like all of your families, our parish family is continuing to move forward as we emerge from the shadow of the worldwide pandemic. The manner in which the faithful of Saint John and our collaborative parish partner of Saint Theresa have supported our ministry and mission over the last three years has been quite commendable and I want to thank you for that ongoing response and commitment.

As we move forward into the New Church Year which begins in a little less than a week with the First Sunday of Advent and into the New Year of 2023, Father Charlie Higgins 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 reorganizing our parish Pastoral and Finance Councils, and we are going to take advantage of 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 2023, 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 2022 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 Five-Hundred Dollars (\$500) to the Grand Annual if your circumstances allow.

I am well aware in these economically uncertain times that there are those among us who face financial challengers. Many of our most faithful parishioners are people who are retired and/or are on fixed incomes who simply cannot and are not expected to offer that same level of financial support. As I

make this appeal for your support of our Grand Annual Collection, please be sure that I fully understand if you are not able to contribute at this time. Please make your family your first priority.

For others, your economic circumstances may not be as precarious as those of some of your neighbors. If you find yourself in a position to perhaps be even a little more generous in your donation to this year's Grand Annual Collection than in years past, please be sure that any such enhanced support would be both very welcome and put to good use. If your own particular, personal circumstances allow, I would be most grateful if you would please prayerfully and seriously consider increasing the size of the amount of your family's contribution to this year's Grand Annual Collection substantially, or even incrementally. As always, we here at Saint John's are extremely grateful for both the sacrifices you make and for the devoted commitment you demonstrate through your ongoing, faithful support of our Parish.

Enclosed with this letter is the Return Envelope for the 2022 Grand Annual Collection which will kick off with a Special Collection at all of our Parish Masses on the weekend of Saturday, December 3d and Sunday, December 4th. 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 February 2022, Saturday the 25th and Sunday the 26th.

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John J. Connolly, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Reverend John J. Connolly, Jr.
Pastor