



ST. BERNARDINE'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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“Our Home Under the Dome”

*The mission of St. Bernardine Catholic Church is to know and love God
and proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ to ourselves and others
through our example of a community expressing love and service.*

October 2023

Dear Parish Family,

A few weeks ago, I released a video highlighting the impressive progress we've made in our ministries of worship, evangelization, and community engagement: from rebuilding our music ministry, to extending our reach through technology, to serving and organizing our neighbors. I am particularly excited about our new ASCEND program, which will bring much needed workforce development and educational programs to Edmondson Village through a partnership with the University of Maryland Medical Center.

A week after the video's release, however, the Archdiocese of Baltimore filed for bankruptcy in anticipation of an influx of child abuse lawsuits due to the lifting of the statute of limitations for those cases. That action called into focus our need to address the suffering of those abused by Catholic clergy and our commitment to continue the important ministries of our local parishes.

You have supported St. Bernardine's ministries through your generous donations to our **weekly offertory** and our **Destined Under the Dome 2.0 Capital Campaign (DUD2.0)**, which will bring several improvements to our campus. Last year, we received more offertory and capital campaign funds than in each of the previous ten years, except for one. Thank you for your generosity.

At the same time, our offertory funds, which pay such day-to-day expenses as staff salaries, facility maintenance, and pastoral programs are declining, while our capital funds, which can only be used to pay for major capital improvements, are rising. A decline in offertory funds jeopardizes our ability to pay for our operating expenses and to continue our ministry accomplishments.

Consequently, I am writing not to ask you to increase your contributions to the parish, but to shift the way you're giving them. Specifically, I'm asking all parishioners to reduce their gifts to DUD2.0 by half and to shift those funds to offertory. So, for example, if you are giving \$20/week to offertory and \$20/week to DUD2.0, I ask that you now give \$30/week to offertory and \$10/week to DUD2.0.

Such a shift will shore up our ability to pay for our ministries, without threatening our ability to fund new restrooms in the church. (I've provided a worksheet on the back of this letter to help you calculate your changed level of giving to our offertory and capital campaign.) If you've made a pledge to DUD2.0, please consider it suspended as we try to stabilize our offertory income.

The months ahead will be challenging. We pray for the healing of those harmed by church officials and for the wisdom to address that harm and our ongoing ministry with generosity and compassion. Thank you again for your support of St. Bernardine's, and I look forward to the continued growth of our ministry and ongoing relationship with the Lord and one another. (Please scan the QR Code for more stewardship resources.)

Yours in the powerful name of Jesus,

Fr. Rich



Scan me!

REVISING YOUR GIFTS TO OUR OFFERTORY AND CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



Scan me!

STEP ONE:

Record your current Destined Under the Dome 2.0 Gift: \$ _____ (A)
per _____.

STEP TWO:

Calculate your new DUD2.0 Gift: \$ _____ (A) ÷ 2 =
\$ _____ (B).

STEP THREE:

Begin making your new DUD2.0 Gift as soon as possible: \$ _____ (B)
per _____.

STEP FOUR:

Record your current Offertory Gift: \$ _____ (C)
per _____.

STEP FIVE:

Calculate your new Offertory Gift: \$ _____ (B)* + \$ _____ (C) =
\$ _____ (D)

STEP SIX:

Begin making your new Offertory Gift as soon as possible: \$ _____ (D)
per _____.

** You may need to adjust this amount if the frequency of your DUD2.0 gift is different from the frequency of your Offertory Gift. If, for example, your DUD2.0 gift is monthly, and your Offertory Gift weekly, then you will need to divide your DUD2.0 monthly installment by 4 to adjust it to a weekly installment.*

Additional resources – such as our annual report on parish finances, an explanation of our stewardship needs, and instructions on how to make those changes if you are using online giving – are available on our website. Please visit www.stbernardinechurch.org and click on “Stewardship 2023” or scan the QR Code to access these resources.