

Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church

315 N. Constitution Ave. New Freedom, PA 17349 (717) 235-2156



September 12, 2026

Dear Parish Family,

As we move through this new fiscal year, I want to speak with you from the heart about our life together as a faith community. While St. John the Baptist has practical needs like any organization, it is not a business—it is our spiritual home. Here, we gather to worship, to form our children in faith, to care for one another, and to serve as Christ's hands and feet in the world. I am deeply grateful for the many ways you already give of yourselves here.

We work hard to be good stewards, keeping expenses as low as possible while continuing to serve families, maintain our facilities, and offer vital ministries and programs that enrich our spiritual life. Like so many of you, I know how costs continue to rise in our daily lives. The parish faces the same realities — utilities, maintenance, insurance, and the quiet, steady work of keeping our ministries alive. We strive to be careful guardians of what we have been given and are committed to meeting these needs responsibly, but we cannot continue this work without your ongoing support.

I am grateful for the steady growth in contributions we have seen in recent years. From the 2021/2022 fiscal year to the 2025/2026 fiscal year, contributions have risen by approximately 18%. This increase reflects your faithfulness and love for our parish. Yet as our community continues to welcome new members and expand our mission, we must ensure that our financial support keeps pace with the opportunities and challenges before us.

This year, I invite every family and individual to take part in our **“Growing in Faith and Generosity”** giving program. The idea is simple and powerful: prayerfully consider **elevating your impact** by making one intentional upgrade to your regular weekly or monthly gift. If you receive monthly envelopes, this might mean moving to the next offertory tier on the envelope, adding a small percentage to your online recurring gift, or committing to a new level of sacrificial giving that fits your budget. Even modest increases, when made together by our entire parish family, will create a massive wave of support to sustain and grow the vital ministries we share. Your increased support will directly help us strengthen faith formation, support our growing youth and young adult ministries and family programs, and maintain and improve our church facilities.

Please take time in the coming weeks to reflect and pray about your giving. You may increase your contribution by contacting the parish office, updating your online giving profile, or using the envelopes provided. Every gift, no matter the size, is a tangible act of faith and gratitude to God.

Thank you for your love of St. John the Baptist and for your generous response to this invitation. Together, with God's grace, we will continue to build up our spiritual home for generations to come.

May the Lord bless you and your families abundantly.

In Christ,

Rev. Philip H. Burger

Fr. PHIL

Growing in FAITH and GENEROSITY Together

How can one cup of coffee or one meal
make a difference?

That small amount helps support our
parish, our faith, our mission. Every
gift, no matter the size becomes part of
something larger when we offer it
together.

Where will you go next?



CURRENT GIVING → **GROWTH GOAL**