



ST. MARGARET, QUEEN OF SCOTLAND

ST. THOMAS CHAPEL • SPRINGFIELD

Post Office Box 100 • Albany, Louisiana 70711-0100 • 225.567.3573

06 August 2017

The Transfiguration of the Lord

Dear Friends in the Lord:

Everything we have is truly a gift from God, and the Lord encourages us to generously share those blessings with others. When we do, we accumulate lasting treasure. Because we define giving as an act of love and because we measure it against the great gift of God's Son, then giving generously and sacrificially is exactly the point. Prayerfully, we give with generous hearts.

At St. Margaret and St. Thomas, we have much for which we are thankful, and we are mindful that these things – our health, our homes, our relationships, our communion with Christ and other parishioners, all of our earthly treasures – are gifts from God's hands and are entrusted to us with his blessing, that we might live as his own and honor Christ by sharing. We honor Jesus when we give. Giving is planned, proportionate, sacrificial, born of free expression, and prayerful.

On the obverse of this letter is a generic financial report for the 2016/2017 fiscal year – proof to you that God has blessed this community abundantly and that we continue to use these gifts as “good stewards” – a theme that has long been a hallmark of the administration of this parish. I am especially grateful to all of you for your increased stewardship this past year; together, **you have generated an increase of some 49% in general receipts as compared with last year!** Much of this has come from generous donations from parishioners for our Capital Improvement Project. As a result of your generosity, we were able to do many great things on our campus and in our community including a total payoff of the debt for the 5.05 acres of real estate that we purchased, contributing some \$350,000 to parishioners and friends to help them in flood recovery, and saving for our future parking lot and Church renovation project at St. Margaret! Keep in mind that all of this was done in one of the most difficult years our parish has seen with flood recovery from last August's destruction. As the parochial administrator, I again commit that we will use the temporal gifts you give to us prudently. **Please feel free to call me directly should you have any questions about this report** as it is often difficult to read. Timing differences account for the negative number at the end of the report – so don't worry – we're not broke!

We have recently begun a new fiscal year, and there are many ministerial and physical plans that we hope to accomplish together over the next year. Would you consider being a continued “good steward” by investing in St. Margaret your time, your talent and your treasure and continue to give *prayerfully* with your generous hearts? As we begin a new year of ministry, we continue the work of a faithful Catholic community whose every effort is a work of faith rooted in a generous heart and spirit!

Yours in the Lord,

Rev. Jamin Scott David
Pastor