



**St. Anne, St. Bernard, St. John the Baptist and St. Mary Churches, All Saints Catholic School,
Holy Cross Cemetery, and the Friendship Room**

817 Sable Street Alpena, MI 49707

989.354.3019

www.alpenacatholics.org

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Dear All Saints Family,

The work that God has been doing in our midst over the past year has truly been amazing. The theme from our monthly Faith Formation lessons with all the staff last year was **“Moving from Maintenance to Mission”** It might be tempting to look at this stewardship report and see only black and red numbers and accounts – but **I encourage you rather to see this report as an account of how your gifts have been put to work in furthering the mission of Jesus Christ in Alpena.** For example, on the back page of the brochure one can see the increase in the number of baptisms, confirmations, weddings, and funerals that were celebrated last year! All of this is possible because our ancestors have bequeathed us not only with brick-and-mortar churches, but more importantly with a living faith and trust in Christ and His Gospel. Everything we have is pure gift.

I want to thank you for your patience in receiving this stewardship report many months late. We switched to a new accounting software at the Diocese that has caused the delay. This system will allow us to be better stewards of your financial gifts. We are now able to keep track of the various projects and programs in the parish without having to use separate savings and checking accounts. I would like to thank our Finance Council who is responsible for monitoring these financial reports and giving necessary approval for any major expenditures (over \$10,000).

This last fiscal year, we have been blessed by your generosity to fully fund the repair and maintenance of the stained-glass windows of our parish church. Please note that the expense of the window restoration project will be seen in the current year. In addition, we met our Catholic Service Appeal goal for 2022-2023 in May by over 145% which in turn will pay for our new boiler and go towards the repair of the front steps. In total, our capital improvement giving last year was nearly a third of a million dollars! Not only that, but ordinary giving at the offertory increased year-over-year by 22%.

Following Pope Francis' request for a 'listening church' this past year we embarked on a synod process at our parish which resulted in our 10-year strategic plan published in September. We are currently embarking on a feasibility study of the strategic plan to see what our first steps ought to be. Everyone's voice will be heard by means of a survey after Christmas. The results of the study will be made available for review by the whole parish in the coming months.

Finally, **THANK YOU for your incredible generosity to the mission of our parish, school, cemetery, and Friendship Room.** All we can say is thank you for giving of your time, talent, and treasure to building up the Kingdom of God. Both Fr. Michael and I are very grateful for your prayerful support.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Tyler A. Bischoff

Parochial Administrator, All Saints of Alpena