

# From the Desk of Fr. Jerry

December 22, 2024

Dear Friends,

Before we say goodbye to the past year, please look at the financial report included in today's bulletin. It reflects the fiscal year July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024. We began a new fiscal year on July 1, 2024, when I arrived. There are some important implications from the numbers to which I will call your attention in the report.

The Christmas Collection is an important part of the parish budget. It provides the critically important resources for the service given by the parish in the areas of worship, formation, evangelization, pastoral care, and training for ministry. My request is that you make a special Christmas offering so that we can continue providing spiritual nourishment and outreach to our community. Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a lasting impact. You can make your gift here: <https://www.givecentral.org/customizable-online-giving/228/event/5013> or by scanning the QR Code below.

In the weeks immediately preceding Christmases past I would get together with Donna, a friend of many years. Our tradition was to read a poem by John Shea entitled "Sharon's Prayer." Donna usually read while I listened. Afterwards we shared a Christmas meal. One year I made a framed copy of the poem as a gift for Donna, and I made another for myself. In October, Donna went home to the Lord. In her memory I am thinking of many times we shared Sharon's Prayer. I will share it with you as a Christmas Greeting.

## Sharon's Prayer

She was five  
sure of the facts  
and recited them with slow solemnity  
convinced every word was revelation.  
She said they were so poor they had only peanut butter and jelly sandwiches to eat,  
and they went a long way from home without getting lost.  
The lady rode a donkey, the man walked,  
and the baby was inside the lady.  
They had to stay in a stable with an ox and an ass (hee-hee)  
but the Three Rich Men found them  
because a star lighted the roof.  
Shepherds came and you could pet the sheep but not feed them.  
Then the baby was borned.  
And do you know who he was?  
Her quarter eyes inflated to silver dollars. The baby was God.  
And she jumped in the air whirled round, dove into the sofa  
and buried her head under the cushion  
which is the only proper response to the Good News of the Incarnation.

*Fr. Jerry Gunderson*

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Online Giving

