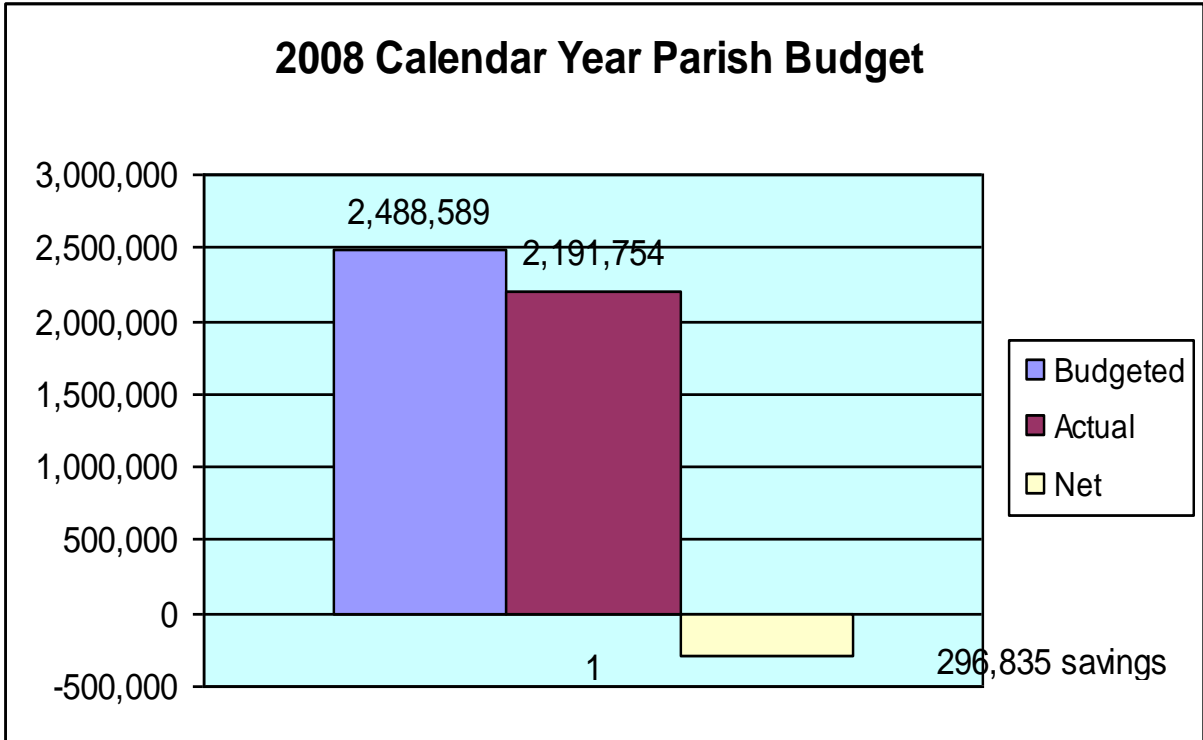
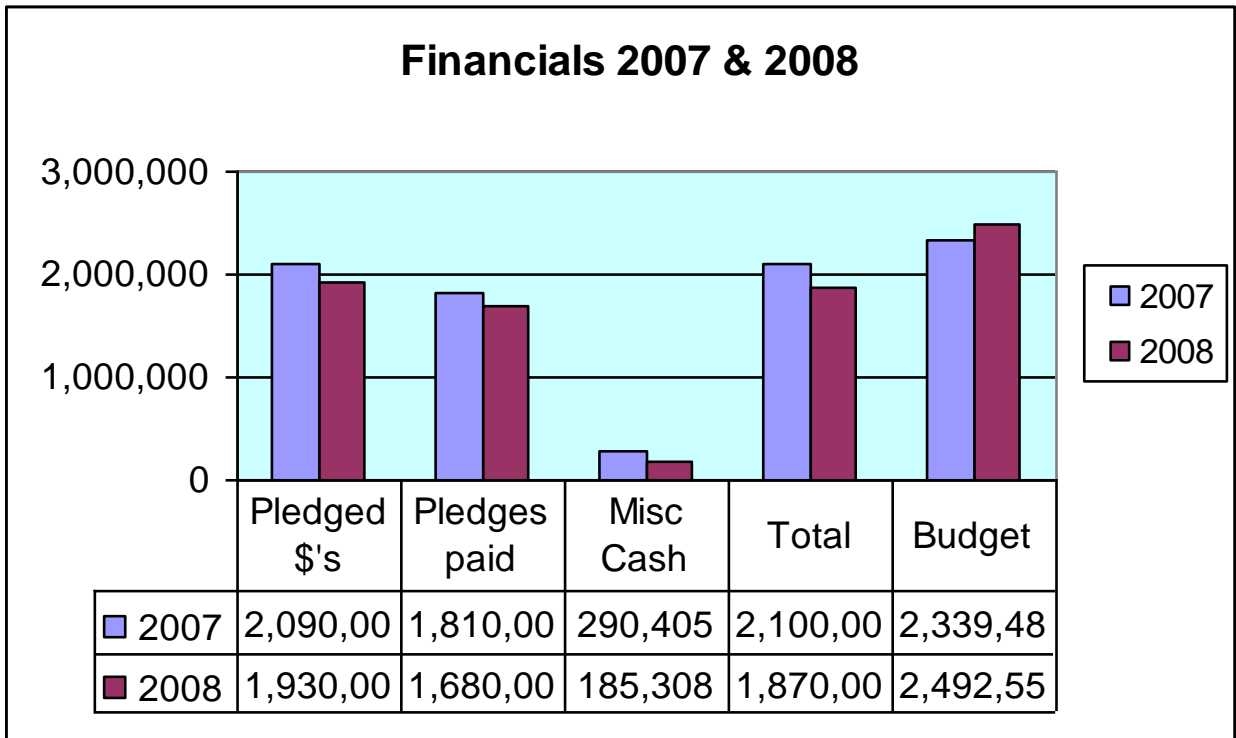


STATE OF THE PARISH March 2009



# Pastoral Plan Update

## Faith Formation

The Faith Formation action team has been meeting regularly for the past several months and has made significant progress. The team has separated its work into two streams: adult formation and child formation. Both work streams have developed a framework for the program delivery. The adult formation work stream has focused on building learning tracks based on traditional adult learning formats and best practices while leveraging existing programs. The child formation work stream has focused on the challenge of finding creative ways to enhance teaching, learning and communication. They are currently addressing the question "Is it possible to add a classroom model at St. Gabriel's - given our focus on family participation and keeping in mind space and budget constraints?"

## Technology

The Technology Action team has documented and prioritized our "to-do" list, which covers many areas. The team will be working on the high priority items. The initial focus is to determine the web hosting requirements which provider can best meet these needs. This will set the foundation for enabling the online needs of the parish. Our next meeting is 3/2 at 7PM, anyone interested is welcomed to attend.

## Organizational Development

The Organization Development committee has completed compiled an updated list of the ministries for use in determining objectives, grouping structures, and any potential areas of overlap. A proposed ministry organizational grouping structure has been generated and is currently being finalized. Discussions were initiated with the Technology/MARCOM team to begin looking at website presentation options. Upcoming plans include developing a ministry start-up process and also conducting a ministry guidelines session with ministry leaders to communicate parish expectations/requirements.

## Welcoming

All efforts of the Welcome Ministry are directed at making St. Gabriel's a welcoming community where all feel invited and included. Noticeable changes in the Narthex include a separation of Sacred Space from Market Space, a new Welcome Desk, an electronic door for wheelchair access, and greeters at the door and desk during weekend Masses. Before each Mass the priests and deacons now recognize visitors and new parishioners so the community can welcome them. New Parishioner Orientation is now being offered at different times and days so we can accommodate different schedules. We hope that by offering this varied scheduling more can attend and learn the "nuts and bolts" of our parish. We are in the beginning stages of creating a Parish Ambassador Program that teams new members of the parish with seasoned members to be guides for them as they become part of the community.

## Youth Ministry

Under this year's theme, SANCTIFY, Youth Ministry has reached new heights! From the dedication of parents and other quality adults and young adults, the young people of the parish have had more opportunities to experience their faith than ever before. CORE teams have been created and strengthened for each program in Youth Ministry (Rise 4 (*Elementary*), Bound 4 (*Middle School*), and Quest 4 (*High School*)). Events have been offered that go deep – really learning what it means to be Catholic and events have been offered that go broad – fun nights that capture the attention of young people to draw them into the faith. The Youth Ministry Staff began publication of a monthly parent newsletter called "theParentLink". This newsletter is sent to all Middle School and High School Parents and is geared toward "arming" parents with knowledge of our Catholic faith as well as secular culture and current popular trends. Lastly, our drive toward vocations is never-ending... Our efforts have been only enhanced by Arthur's participation in many youth events. What a powerful witness and role-model for our youth! Our sincere hope and passion is to continue to provide quality programs and events to support our parish families in their faith! Amen – I believe!

## Marcom

Our marketing efforts have begun with creating a 'tagline' for the parish that describes St. Gabriel's and stays true to our Mission Statement. Tagline recommendations: 1) A Catholic Community Committed to Caring; 2) Following Christ Through Committed Faith; 3) Living our Catholic Faith. The tagline will be incorporated with the purple Angel Gabriel that is already a familiar identifier of our parish. Next we will create a communications graphic standards manual that will ensure standardized use. Future projects will address intercommunication between ministries, and ways to more effectively use the website to communicate with parishioners. Some of this will be in conjunction with the Technology Committee. We are looking for creative people to join us!

### St. Gabriel the Archangel Mission Statement

We are gathered to be fed by Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.  
We are sent forth to know, love and serve Him always,  
everywhere and in everyone.