



# SAINT PAUL PARISH

29 Mount Auburn Street • Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138 • (617) 491-8400  
[www.stpaulparish.org](http://www.stpaulparish.org)

November 2007

Dear Members and Friends of St. Paul's,

**What a wonderful and glorious church and parish center we have inherited!**

Each day, I am reminded by visitors and members of our community how fortunate we are to have such a place, the hub of a vibrant and growing Catholic community here in the midst of Harvard Square and Harvard University.

Many years ago, parishioners and friends, such as yourselves, actually planned and helped to build the current St. Paul's church. If one would stop and reflect on this past event for a moment, it seems hard to believe. Their vision, faith and dedication must have been truly astounding! The building's **cornerstone** was laid in 1915, the doors were opened and the first liturgies were held on Easter Sunday, April 1, 1923. Since that time the parish has grown into a vibrant and strong community of faith with many, many varied ministries for all to share.

Today, **we all are stewards of this rich inheritance**; all of us, together as members of our Catholic community here in Harvard Square. **We too have placed a cornerstone** to build upon to ensure that our community remains alive, our buildings remain strong, and all the services and ministries of our parish are sound and uninterrupted. The **St. Paul's Parish Pledge Program is our cornerstone**, for all of us to continue to build upon.

**The 2008 Parish Pledge Program is the cornerstone of all of our giving here at St. Paul's.** *It is our way of building our church here for today and tomorrow.* Pledging to the 2008 Pledge Program is **your way of financially committing to the parish as a steward** of your inheritance. **Your pledge** is your solid brick that you place on our new cornerstone. **Pledging** is a critical component of our financial structure as it allows our dedicated volunteer finance committee to properly allocate funds throughout the year as well as be able plan strong budgets for the future.

**Our goal, for 2008**, is to have 50 % of our now 1,100 registered parishioners participating in our Parish Pledge Program with a goal of \$475,000. If each individual, family, or couple, could begin to pledge a minimum of 2% of their income – that would help immensely.

Our Catholic community is financially challenged by simple, across the board, rising operational costs despite a very lean organization. All of the St. Paul services, to which we all are accustomed, have not yet been cut back. We **must move** to balanced budget as quickly as possible while working on our saving for the future.

**With each of helping as stewards, we can accomplish that goal.** We have made progress (please read the recent fiscal year 2007 Parish Annual Report – now online at [www.stpaulparish.org](http://www.stpaulparish.org) in "news") and we are blessed with many ministries with tireless and dedicated volunteers. **WE ALL ARE STEWARDS, each one of us.** We all have a responsibility to our ensuring that our vibrant Catholic community here at St. Paul's remains financially sound. Thank you for all your support. Please be as generous as possible.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. Robert J. Congdon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Robert J. Congdon  
Pastor