



St. Theodore Catholic Church

308 East Fountain Street
Albert Lea, MN 56007
(507) 373-0603

November 7, 2017

It seems like I've been here for a long time and then it seems like I just arrived. In reality it's been a whirlwind 120+ days since I arrived. I am so happy to be here and to share the love of Jesus Christ with you. I want to take this opportunity to share some early observations with you and let you know about some key projects that we will be starting in the near future.

You have all been very welcoming to me personally and I cannot tell you how grateful I am for the warm Albert Lea hospitality. You've also been very generous with your feedback about what needs to be improved here at St. Theodore's to ensure we continue to be a welcoming community – open to *inviting others to participate in the life of Jesus*. We've used that feedback to prioritize where we need to spend our time, talent, and treasure.

Most frequent feedback: “We can't hear you”.

We know that the current sound system at St. Theodore's has surpassed its useful life cycle and that we are not meeting the needs of everyone in the congregation. To address that Parish Council and Liturgy Committee recommended a sound system upgrade. We will be re-directing the Rooted in Faith funds to purchase a new sound system with the plan of having it in place for the 2017 Christmas Celebrations

Most urgent building needs: Those of you who are homeowners know the importance and the expense of keeping up with building maintenance. When the buildings are in good condition – the environment is inviting to those who enter.

1. Tuckpointing repair and refresh - We are planning in the Spring/Summer of 2018 to move forward with a tuckpoint project that will cost \$28,724.00.
2. Roof repair and replacement – the roof is leaking thus causing some internal wear and tear which will begin to result in major internal repair if the roof is not repaired. The Building and Grounds Committee in the process of finalizing bids to repair and replace the church roof. The estimated cost of the roof repair and replacement is approximately \$66,000.
3. Security System in the school and church has been updated and will continue to be updated to ensure that we are meeting code, but most importantly protecting our school children.

Another parish expense that the Church will have to confront is meeting the Catholic Ministries Appeal - Foundation of Southern Minnesota, which raises money every year to fund the Catholic ministries that are housed at the Diocese. Each parish is given a goal based on yearly income and on the number of registered members. Our goal for this year was \$57,340, and we have raised \$42,499 up to this point, which leaves a short fall of almost \$17,000 for 2017. If we don't reach our goal the parish will have to pay this short fall with money we need to run the parish.

There is good news in all of this, and a great opportunity to save money for the parish while completing the necessary projects to make this the welcoming parish it needs to be. If we as a parish can generate enough money to pay off our Catholic Ministries Appeal goal through parishioner donations, any moneys that come in on top of this reached goal will go directly to helping pay for the projects mentioned. Twenty-five (25%) percent of all money given to Rooted in Faith goes to the St. Theodore's Parish. One hundred (100%) percent of the money raised over the Parish's Catholic Ministries Appeal goal comes back to the parish to help with these much needed projects.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and your spirit in making St. Theodore's a welcoming community. If you have questions please contact myself or Tonia Lauer the Parish Administrator.

God bless you,

Father Kurt Farnell
Father Kurt