

Sacred Heart-St. Louis Financial Update

Dear Parishioners,

November 8, 2017

We regret this having taken so long, but over the last 2 years, we just did not have a true picture of where we were financially which you, our parishioners, need to know.

First, I would like to touch on Sacred Heart School, just briefly. As mentioned last weekend by Mrs. Lucy Shawn, our principal, over the course of the last 4 years, we have all seen many of the capital improvements and updates to our school. These have consisted of new heating and air conditioning units installed on the school roof, new double doors and a ramp at the rear of the gym, boiler room demo and remodel into a teacher break room, new double door security entrance to the school, new electrical panels in the school and gym, new iPads for the classrooms and many other miscellaneous items.

Now that said, all these major improvements would never have been accomplished had it not been for the grant writing success of our principal, Mrs. Shawn. Over the course of those last 4 years, our school has received approximately \$275,000 in free money. Even though these are wonderful improvements to our school and parish, they are like a double edge sword in that they give the appearance that the school has an endless supply of funds, not so!! When a grant is applied for, it is for specific needs or projects and when received, can only be used for that! And not the day to day funding needed to update our school which is very much needed year in and out and can be funded by all of us through the school offertory collection once a month and the schools annual appeal each year. The need is there!

Our parish, in this same regard, has seen improvements over the last few years such as black top resealing, new church interior lighting, new exterior lights from school to FFC, and new lighting around parish structures at Sacred Heart and St Louis, and updates to gym bathrooms, additional new chairs and tables for the gym. All of which have been almost totally funded by individual parishioner donations. If not for that, these improvements would not have been realized, because the parish does not have the discretionary funds to do these. So when you see the Christmas wish list, a special request for help in replacing a furnace, air conditioner, refrigerator, or any number of other items, etc., you will know why, because our maintenance fund will only go so far.

But even with that said, we are hoping to, in the near future, realize some new projects:

1. Gym south wall – cover with metal siding to keep moisture out
2. Gym kitchen exhaust system – replace fan motor
3. Additional lighting and cameras around parish grounds for security
4. New gutters at St. Louis Church

Now let's move back to the parish income and expense: I will not bore you by going thru the budget line items which were listed in the bulletin and you can read for yourselves. But instead I have a question for you . . .

How much do you think it costs to run the parish for ONE DAY? And this does not include the school and any parish capital or major repairs...

Almost a \$1000 per day but actually this past year was \$910 per day 365 days a year OR
\$27,300.00 per month \$331,000 per year

Our parish staff includes a secretary, assistant secretary, bookkeeper, youth minister, DRE, maintenance man and our pastor which makes up over 50% of our total budget. The bulk of these expenses are paid by:

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|---------------------------------|-----------|-----|-------------------------------|
| 1. Church offertory collections | \$182,000 | 55% | down \$20k from previous year |
| 2. Chicken dinners | \$40,000 | 12% | |
| 3. Special collections | \$40,000 | 12% | equals 79% |
| 4. Balance is misc. incomes | | | |

Our expenses in repairs or capital improvements have a beginning and an end, but not so with our operational costs which go day to day, month to month, and year in and out. Just like our utility bills coming to our home, 12 months out of the year just like clockwork.

As our last fiscal year ended, we were in the red about \$1300 for income verses expenses. This is of great concern to the council as we are just keeping our head above water and our ability of maintaining all of our buildings and equipment is questionable. Some examples: our church is 21 years old, school is 62 years old, gym is 55 years old, and so on. Unforeseen things can happen at any time and as of now, we have no cushion at all.

We now have 82% of our parishioners donating to our school and parish. We would hope to raise this percentage even higher. And to those who are now giving, thank you for your past, present, and future support.

Please look over the commitment card included in this mailing and prayerfully consider what you can give weekly or monthly for the next year. The question we all need to ask of ourselves: How important is our parish and school to each one of us?

If you have any questions, please ask any admin member. Also, we have an Admin meeting most months on the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 pm. These always start with an open forum for anyone to bring questions, ideas, or concerns to the council. Just let one of us know via the parish office well before the meeting.

Thank you for your time!

Administrative council members:

Larry Schiedler

Kent Belleque

Laura Hagenauer

Frank Davidson

Marty Miller as admin rep

Fr Chrispine Otieno