



SHARING *our* GIFTS
BUILDING *our* FUTURE
ST. RICHARD'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FOR THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 23-24

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

Q: WHY DO WE NEED TO REPAIR THE BRICK EXTERIOR OF THE CHURCH? **A:** As a building ages, brick and mortar deteriorate at different rates. This causes cracking, and gaps can appear in the exterior walls. This is not a cosmetic problem, but a structural one. As a result of these deficiencies, moisture can seep in over time and cause damage to the interior of the building.

A building consultant hired by the parish has indicated that there are about 3,000 bricks that must be replaced. Since these are deteriorating further each year, the cost of these repairs will increase if we do not do something soon. By replacing failing bricks and tuck-pointing the mortar, we can ensure that our parish building remains functional for many, many years to come.

Q: WHY IS THE RESURFACING OF THE PARKING LOT NECESSARY? **A:** Over the last several years, St. Richard has had our current lot patched and re-sealed on an annual basis. However, these repairs can cost about \$6,000 annually, and this cost will rise as the lot ages. It is more efficient to resurface the lot in two to three years, creating a smooth, safe surface on which to walk, than to continue patching into the future. This is particularly important to accomplish so that parishioners with limited mobility continue to feel welcome at our parish; they will know that when they come to St. Richard, there is an easy way to get to Mass and various church events.

UPDATES AND UPGRADES

Q: IS THERE A NEED TO UPDATE OUR SOUND SYSTEM? **A:** When the church sanctuary was remodeled, the sound system was not recalibrated to reach all areas equally. As a result, there are “dead spots” in the church where worshippers cannot hear easily. In addition, as our parish demographics shift, there is a need for more hearing assist devices so that those who are hearing impaired continue to feel welcome in our community. Last, the wireless microphones the parish currently uses do not have a high enough signal strength to be used in the narthex or outside, which means that parishioners cannot hear the presider for the Easter Vigil or Palm Sunday.

By purchasing new speakers, a more up to date sound board, more hearing assist devices and additional microphones, we can ensure that all people are able to participate fully in the Mass no matter where they sit or what physical difficulties they might have.

Q: WHAT KINDS OF GENERAL MAINTENANCE UPGRADES ARE BEING PROPOSED? **A:** There are a number of smaller projects that St. Richard needs to address. First, the parish would repair outdated plumbing in key areas of the building before it fails, which is more cost-efficient than waiting for something to break as we have in the past. Second, we would install a new security system so we can keep our parish and school communities safe. Last, the parish would purchase updated snow removal equipment so that the parish staff is able to efficiently deal with snow and ice, especially for those parishioners who have limited mobility.

In the next week, one more FAQ will be published in the bulletin and online, addressing specific projects. Please pray that God may bless and strengthen us as we move forward!