

Blessed Sacrament – Annual Report
September 2015-August 2016

Pastoral Message

December 18, 2016
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dear Parishioners:

As we begin the new Liturgical Year, I wish to present to you the Parish's Annual Report. Let me begin by thanking the Pastoral and Finance Councils as well as the Pastoral Planning Committee for their devotion and diligence in helping guide our parish. I am happy to report that after many months of conversation, surveys, and prayer, our new Parish Pastoral Plan has been completed. We look forward to its vision guiding us in these coming years as we strive to be more faithful to the love of Christ. The Finance Council has been indispensable in two ways. They ensure the parish's financial transparency, as well as offer sound guidance on how to best steward our resources while keeping overhead costs at a reasonable level. Thank you to all who so faithfully participate.

There is no question that Blessed Sacrament continues to be a vibrant and thriving parish. One look at our various parish calendars tells our beautiful story of worship, education, hospitality, outreach, and social activity. We are a community that, sustained by our communal worship, lives the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Here at Blessed Sacrament we have a flourishing school with almost 380 students, and a thriving Sunday School program of almost 250. We also have 7 adults preparing to receive the Sacraments at Easter. During this past year we celebrated 117 Baptisms, 53 Confirmations, 71 First Holy Communions, 36 Weddings. We prayed the Funeral Rite for 17 of our loved ones including our former Pastor, Msgr. Robert O'Connor. Finally, our average Sunday Mass attendance is about 1500 people.

I would like to thank each of you for your weekly sacrificial giving to our regular collection, as well as the Christmas and Easter collections, which are so vital to the parish and, ideally, should cover our operating expenses. While we have made efforts this past year to reduce costs, this is a large parish with many activities, needs, and aging facilities. Thank you again for your generosity as we work together to close the gap in our deficit.

For those of us whose weekly attendance here is not consistent, the online *ParishPay* system is a great way to ensure that your weekly support is maintained. Unfortunately, from time to time, we still have had to draw upon our reserve invested funds to cover operational expenses. This, however, is not sustainable in the long term.

This year we have already had to make some difficult but necessary personnel changes in our efforts to scale back expenses. We have also engaged in a series of

initiatives that would both offer means of memorializing loved ones in meaningful ways while at the same time help offset some of our regular expenses. Thank you to all who so generously give in all of these different but vital ways.

I am also happy to report that after a financial audit conducted by the Archdiocese at my request, we are now in compliance with recommendations made by the Archdiocese. The findings of this audit are on file in the Rectory should you wish to examine it.

Apart from our operational situation, I am happy to report that our capital campaign, *Restore Our Home...Let Us Continue to Grow*, is going quite well. As of this weekend we have \$2,818,380 in pledges as we move towards our goal. This campaign will cover the capital projects so necessary to the continued life of our magnificent one-hundred-year-old church. Thank you to all who have so faithfully come forward for this effort.

Lastly, I would like to thank the dedicated pastoral team, staff, and many volunteers who make this a living and loving environment in which to minister. It remains a gift to serve you as pastor. Please keep me in your prayers, as I do you each and every day. And, as always, let us continue to pray for peace.

Fr. Duffell

Façade/Exterior Repairs

By now we are all tired of the scaffolding that 'adorns' the front of our beautiful church. When part of our façade fell to the ground two years ago we knew that something had to be done to address the pressing issue of our aging church. Thankfully so many of you have come forward to support our Capital Campaign, and continue to do so each day. The generosity here is profound and speaks to your love of Blessed Sacrament. The necessary work shall soon begin.

Theatre/Hall

While our Theatre and Church Hall both could use restoration and repairs, they are, thankfully, fully operational. In this past year we finally received our Permit to Assemble for a 299 max capacity. A lot of hard work went into the permit, and I would like to thank those who saw that project to completion. Since receiving our Permit to Assemble in August, we continue to try to make good use of the space, both utilizing it for parish purposes as well as generate revenue from rentals. It is my hope that eventually we will be able to do some restoration work for such a lovely space.

Investment Portfolio

Most of our reserve funds exist as invested funds with Merrill Lynch, and as of the writing of this report, amount to \$1,448,949.13. While that is a healthy amount of money, a parish this size should ideally have more in the bank. Father Duffell has had to draw from this fund from time to time to maintain our operating budget, but this is not sustainable in the long term. The more we address our operational gap the more we can rest easy that our reserve funds will continue to grow for the future of the parish.

Ways of Support

Prayer and participation are the first ways each of us can support our parish home. Financially we can give through the envelope system, www.paritypay.com, gifts of stock/securities, bequests, etc.

Thank you for the many ways you give and participate in the life of this parish. Let us continue to build up one another in the love of Christ.

Sincerely,

Father John P. Duffell
Pastor

The Finance Council
Maura McGrath
Scott Kern
Tiffany Riady
Brendan Contant
Pia Ferrario
Sue Feitelberg
Tom Fitzgerald
Greg Mayer

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Fiscal Years September-August	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 Actual	2017 Budget
INCOME					
Collection/Donation	\$1,019,304	\$885,206	\$894,000	\$880,508.86	\$862,000
Other	\$146,075	\$193,407	\$196,500	\$527,820.95	\$320,500
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,165,379	\$1,078,693	\$1,090,500	\$1,408,329.81	\$1,182,500
EXPENSES					
Clergy & Related	\$212,995	\$201,561	\$179,400	\$195,716.87	\$219,437
Administration/Insurance	\$312,963	\$337,029	\$300,500	\$355,504.98	\$238,529
Fuel & Utilities	\$135,475	\$109,184	\$111,000	\$73,790.01	\$86,000
Repairs & Maintenance	\$242,012	\$294,773	\$310,600	\$313,241.57	\$241,000
Choir & Liturgy	\$176,167	\$192,500	\$156,000	\$118,884.42	\$119,810
Religious Education	\$82,624	\$80,807	\$81,900	\$87,896.07	\$84,340
Poor Box/Charitable	\$87,797	\$73,965	\$52,000	\$41,322.06	\$34,700
Parish Campaign				\$48,061.18*	
School & Archdiocese	\$159,071	\$140,175	\$113,600	\$143,469.18	\$143,470
Major Repairs**				\$90,206	
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$1,409,104	\$1,429,994	\$1,305,000	\$1,468,092.34	\$1,167,286
Total Income Vs. Total Expense	-\$243,725	-\$351,301	-\$214,500	-\$59,762.53	\$15,214
Investment Portfolio (Reserves)	\$1,989,944	\$1,598,975	\$1,384,475	\$1,448,949.13	

*Parish campaign expenses are now able to be covered by the campaign itself as donations come in.

**Major repairs included: collapsing façade of pipe organ, major plumbing issue, new phone system