



Saint Joseph Catholic Church

567 Saint Joseph Lane + Manchester, MO 63021

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Dear _____,

Recently I heard the story of how one of our eighth graders saw a young mother with two or three children struggling in the midst of the rain to get her children out of the car and into the school building. The eighth grader, without being asked, grabbed an umbrella and rushed out to help the mother. Another person told me how much it meant to him that members of the parish had gathered on his front lawn to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for his dying wife. A woman recently took the time after Mass to tell me how much her relationship with her non-Catholic husband had improved since they had both attended Alpha together. These are just three incidents that show me that God truly is doing great things at St. Joseph Parish.

While we, as a parish, are mindful of our many blessings, we, like any other parish, have challenges that we must face. Currently, one of our biggest challenges is financial with our expenses outweighing our revenue. Thankfully, through the grace of God and your generosity, the replacement of our church HVAC system did not add to our financial difficulties.

After much discussion with the Parish Council, Parish Finance Council, School Advisory Board, and Parish Staff, a plan has been developed to help guide us through these difficult financial times; a plan that, if successful, will help us “remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, and look forward to the future with confidence.” (St. John Paul II).

I would like to share a brief synopsis of this plan with you now. I also encourage you to look at the attached F.A.Q.'s, attend a listening session (see back for dates and times), or make an appointment with me for more information.

Step 1: Sell Resurrection House

The Finance Council has suggested that we sell one of the houses that we own in order to increase our cash flow. Most of the money in our accounts at the moment is restricted for one purpose or another and so being able to put the money from the sale of the house into our operating budget will allow us to offset this year's cash flow problem. (See F.A.Q. for more information).

Step 2: Conduct an Appeal in the Month of February

In our current financial position we are unable to maintain all of our ministries and balance the budget. That, along with our limited savings, puts us in a position where it is unwise to enter into contracts with our school teachers. Therefore, to maintain all that we provide today, we will conduct an appeal next month. (See the Legacy Wall Brochure for more information.)

Step 3: Improve our Financial Position

The Parish Staff has begun reviewing our current operations and contract services to find ways to reduce costs and to improve efficiency with as minimal effect on parish life as possible.

Step 4: Build upon Current Success of ECLC and School

Our Early Childhood Learning Center has been established, has a great reputation, and currently has a waiting list, providing us with a unique opportunity to recruit children into our full-time school and families into our parish.

Working with the Parish Council, Parish Finance Council, School Advisory Board, Parish Staff, and you, our parishioners, there is the hope that in three years we can once again have a vibrant parish and a self-sustaining education system (Early Childhood Learning Center and K-8 school).

Remembering that all miracles in the Bible started off with a problem, I believe that we at St. Joseph are close to seeing many more miracles take place here.

Thank you and God bless,



Fr. Tom Pastorius

Listening Sessions held in Cafeteria unless otherwise noted:

January 30→1:00PM & 7:00PM

February 2→8:00AM & 10:00AM

February 4 @Young at Heart

February 10→10:00AM & 7:00PM

February 13→1:00PM & 7:00PM