

The Parish of Saint John XXIII

January 14, 2018

Dear Parishioners,

You may recall that in our February 28, 2017 *Parish Newsletter* Fr. John Frink, our pastor, attempted to reach out to every parishioner with the proposal to move to a single parish location to grow in love and unity as a parish community. As with any journey, he stressed not only the importance of knowing our goal and destination, but also the need to know if we have the resources to make the journey. Father has been very forthright in keeping us informed since that time as we have had conversations about this proposal.



Since that time, we, the members of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee, have looked carefully at our pastoral, spiritual and financial situation, including the condition of our facilities and our ability to raise funds to pay for them. Having done our due diligence, here is an update on our parish situation – and the challenges that we must address together as a parish family.

Over the past 9 years we have experienced declines in the number of families, baptisms, and weekly Mass attendance, it must be noted that our parish is not alone in dealing with these trends. We agree that we must find ways to address these challenges as a united Parish to remain viable and vibrant.

St. John XXIII Church building (former St. Jerome Church) requires estimated repairs or renovations that would cost in excess of \$2 million. Our Feasibility Study to determine how much could be raised with a parish capital campaign indicated a maximum of \$750,000, with the knowledge that even this may be optimistic. As with any decline in population, we have also experienced a decrease in our financial resources. We have had operational deficits in 7 of the past 8 years. Without an increase in overall income, the size of our deficits will continue to grow each year.

Moving to a single location will help reduce operating expenses in order to move us toward an annual surplus. Otherwise, we will continue to gradually deplete our assets.

This is our current situation, but it does not have to be our destiny. With the help of Fr. Frink, we have proposed to the Diocese, that we use all the facilities at SS Peter & Paul as the location of our parish life. We have further proposed that the former St. Jerome Church be permanently closed. The former St. Jerome Rectory will be either placed on the market for sale or used as an income property for the parish. We have recommended to Father that he form a committee to help with decisions regarding the renovations to SS Peter & Paul (such as redoing the pews, new flooring, and possible changes to the lay out of the sanctuary) as well as finding ways to incorporate liturgical elements from St. John XXIII Church into renovations to SS Peter & Paul. Finally, we have asked that SS Peter & Paul be renamed St. John XXIII Church.

We ask all of you to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we proceed and await input from the Diocese.

Sincerely,

The Members of the Parish Pastoral Council
and the Parish Finance Committee

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