

Finance Council Parish Report, delivered at all the Masses on March 24, 2019:

Background: Recently, Father Foley gathered parish lay leaders, volunteers and the school advisory board to share our ministries and discuss our common mission to reflect Christ's presence in our local community. Two key points emerged that we want to share with you.

1st: We need to promote more effective communication within our diverse parish and clearer message of Gospel hope to the wider community. To that end, we are working on a more integrated, transparent approach to parish communications.

2nd: It has been evident for at least a year that fewer parishioners are taking advantage of the many opportunities to get involved in the parish. Please know the councils and commissions of the parish understand the frustration and pain caused by the recent church scandals and know that people are communicating their feelings through lack of attendance at Mass and consequently volunteer and financial support.

Going forward: With that in mind, and a step towards more transparency, the group recommended that members of our Finance Council address the parish more frequently about the parish financial status.

The Finance Council is a consultative body within the parish that offers expertise in matters of finance and plant management. It meets monthly and members have backgrounds in finance, accounting, communications, and public policy. It has an impact on all parish activities, including the school, so we are pleased that Principal Kelly and a representative from the Home and School Association also join the meetings.

Significant decline: Since last September, we are averaging a \$20,000/month decrease in the Sunday collection. That will add up to close to a quarter of a million dollars loss or 13% decrease or more in our budget here at the parish for fiscal year 2019.

Please know that withholding financial support will cause more pain and frustration here in our parish than anywhere else. If this trend of declining donations continues, we will have a situation where we cannot operate Blessed Sacrament at an optimal level nor even maintain the physical church as we need to.

Forecasting a budget deficit: We are currently projecting to be <\$268K> unfavorable in income for the parish this fiscal year and after reducing expenses significantly, we are projecting to be <\$138K> unfavorable after expenses for the parish only.

Working together: The clerical and lay leaders of Blessed Sacrament know that there is much work to be done beyond our parish to change the way people feel about the Church at large and it will take time.

A positive next step is to attend the town hall planned for Sunday March 31st at 2pm in the parish school gym. The Chancellor of the Archdiocese, Ms. Kim Fiorentino, and other lay

leaders from our parish will speak to issues raised at last year's town hall - namely transparency, child safety and role of lay people.

To address some common concerns: the Chancellor will detail how the 15% of our weekly offertory that goes to the archdiocese is used. We understand that none of the funds the parish sends to the Archdiocese are used to pay legal fees for abuse cases or settlements for abuse victims.

You are invited: Immediately following next week's town hall, there will be an opportunity to learn about how to volunteer your expertise and energy to the parish.

We hope that you will discern how to address your concerns with the Church globally while also continuing support for your parish locally both in financial donations and acts of service.

Blessed Sacrament parish is a special community--a place where people come to nurture their minds and souls. We encourage you to join us next Sunday March 31st at 2pm for the town hall and consider your level of support for the parish. These actions will ensure Blessed Sacrament is sustainable well into the future.

Thank you
The Parish Finance Council