



FINANCIAL REVIEW 2021

By Fr. John Jasica

WORDS OF THANKS!



I want to begin this financial review of the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes with words of gratitude and thanks to all the parishioners of the family. Thank you for your participation, involvement and financial support to help us be a shining light of

faith, hope and love in Chatham. The pandemic has presented many challenges and difficulties for all of us but your perseverance continues to bring the joy of the Gospel.

I also want to thank the Family Parish Staff for adapting during these most difficult circumstances continuing to offer ministry, programs and outreach with so many amazing volunteers during a most unprecedented time in our world. Your dedication and self-sacrifice has brought grace and joy to so many in our faith community and beyond.

Finally, I want to thank the Family Pastoral Council and the Family Finance Committee for their hard work and guidance during my first eight months as the pastor. There are so many things to learn when you arrive to one parish but the learning curve is so much greater with a family of five.

LEARNING TAKES TIME

Over my nearly 21 years of priesthood, I have been assigned to single parishes and clusters both in urban and rural settings. I have experienced a number of transitions as I was assigned to London (St. Pius X and St. Joseph Cluster), Wallaceburg and Port Lambton (Sacred Heart, Holy Family, Our Lady Help of Christians cluster), Goderich (which became a cluster that included parishes in Kingsbridge, St. Augustine, Clinton and Lucknow) and two years as Diocesan Vocations Director before returning to parish ministry for nine years at St. George Parish, London. Now I am blessed to



be pastor of the Chatham Catholic Family of Parishes. I am eager to work with everyone.

It has truly been a great honour to serve in all of these communities and ministries over the years. In every transition, there is a period of time to learn about the communities, get to know the people and discover the history and journey of the parishes. This is where I am today in Chatham.

I am learning something new each day and getting to know the staff and parishioners slowly despite the pandemic. I am also learning about the various ministries, programs, outreach and traditions that have built up our five churches from being individual parishes, then as clusters and now as a family. In each of these circumstances things operated differently based on the needs of the people. I ask for your patience and understanding as I take the time to learn and understand our family so that together, we can move forward.

CONSULTATION & COMMUNICATION



With all of this in mind, I am slowly working with the Family Pastoral Council, Finance Committee and staff developing a pastoral vision for the future in light of the post-pandemic world, examining pastoral priorities, reviewing financial trends over

the past several years and the family of parishes cost sharing mechanism (how shared costs are paid for by each parish). We need to see how we all can make our faith community a relevant, vibrant and active sign of Christ in Chatham and the world.

This process will require more clear communication and consultation with all the faithful of our family so that we can truly discern how the Lord is calling us to change and adapt so that we can be the light of Christ today. This process will unfold over the next several months and will include various opportunities for conversations, input and feedback. Stay tuned—there is more to come!!

GENERAL FINANCIAL OBSERVATIONS



The financial results for 2021 can be found on page 3 of this report. You can see the totals for each individual community and in the last column, as a family. In this review I want to add some general

observations while also reporting specifically on each church of our family. I hope to offer some insight and information that will be helpful. Here are some general comments:

(1) THE PANDEMIC

There is no question that the pandemic has affected all aspects of our lives, including our faith family. Many people have not come to church, travelled or even ventured from home due to the different variants and ease of transmission of the COVID-19 virus. Add to this the various lockdowns and restrictions—churches, charities and businesses have suffered financially. This is not surprising and is a challenge for all the parishes in the Diocese of London.



We do not completely know the long-term affects of the pandemic. We are not sure if everyone will return to church once we reach a “new normal.” There is also a concern regarding volunteers and the various ministries that could not operate in the last two years—will they continue?

Despite all of the questions and concerns that the pandemic has caused—my hope is that this becomes an opportunity to reset why and how we minister in our family of parishes. The pandemic has given us a chance to embrace new ways to connect, support and engage one another. In the long run I think it will help us refocus our efforts to form disciples who reach out to all.

(2) CANADA EMPLOYMENT WAGE SUBSIDY

Canada Emergency
Wage Subsidy

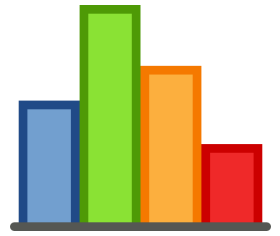
One of the blessings during this time has been the federal government support that we have received in the last two years. The

Canada Employment Wage Subsidy (CEWS) which we as a diocese have applied for monthly has been a great help for us. You can see on line #7 of the financial summary that we as a family received **\$171,850** in 2021. This compares to **\$148,454** that we received in 2020. Without these funds we would be in much worse shape.

Unfortunately, the CEWS program has ended and we are only going to receive three more payments in 2022.

(3) REVENUE & EXPENDITURE

The 2021 financial summary chart on page 3 shows the general revenue and expenditures for each church in our family. We understand that the majority of our revenue is made up of the



Sunday offertory, Christmas, Easter and the Thanksgiving Appeal. Due to the pandemic, these numbers have continued to decrease in 2021. The CEWS over the last two years has helped supplement the revenue decrease but we know this ends in early 2022.

Expenditures generally stay constant. This includes hydro, gas, insurance and compensation. Liturgical and ministry expenses decreased over the last two years but will increase again once the pandemic restrictions are lifted.

We will see some savings in 2022 with the reduction of staff. Karen Robert, a pastoral minister, left parish work in July 2021 while our Business Administrator, Rodger Luxton, retired at the end of October 2021. We must keep in mind that we lack a Family & Youth Coordinator while I, Fr. John, am taking on the business administrator duties at the moment.

(4) PASTORAL PLANNING



We are hoping that with the lifting of most restrictions happening in March 2022, many people will come back to church in a “new normal” for society. Could we be past the

worst of the pandemic? I hope so. With this in mind, we will see more people at Mass, more groups restarting and ministries growing. This will also mean increased costs that we did not incur in 2020 and 2021.

This adds to the challenge of having enough financial resources to offer a wide variety of ministries, programs and outreach to form disciples, support families, serve the needy and accompany those in our long-term care homes and the homebound.

As we plan for the future, we need to discuss and discern with God’s help, what we need to keep, change and let go so that we continue to invest in people who can help share the Good News and change the world. We need to shift from maintenance to mission—embracing anew the call of Christ in the Gospel.

CHATHAM CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES
FINANCIAL RESULTS--DECEMBER 31, 2021

	St. Ursula	St. Joseph	St. Agnes	Blessed Sacrament	Our Lady of Victory	Total Family
1) Operating Revenues	\$237,961	\$282,613	\$241,555	\$348,483	\$73,601	\$1,184,213
2) Operating Expenses	\$314,892	\$422,778	\$293,838	\$321,754	\$82,874	\$1,436,136
3) Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(-\$76,931)	(-\$140,165)	(-\$52,283)	\$26,729	(-\$9,273)	(-\$251,923)
4) Capital Revenues	\$2,991	\$30,257	\$3,642	\$8,767	\$4,009	\$49,666
5) Capital Expenditures	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$34,660	\$0	\$34,660
6) Capital Surplus (Deficit)	\$2,991	\$30,257	\$3,642	(-\$25,893)	\$4,009	\$15,006
7) Canada Wage Subsidy	\$43,719	\$45,471	\$38,670	\$43,990	\$0	\$171,850
8) Total Surplus (Deficit)	(-\$30,221)	(-\$64,437)	(-\$9,971)	\$44,826	(-\$5,264)	(-\$65,067)
9) Total Cash Resources	\$453,476	\$511,559	\$107,102	\$288,310	\$145,911	\$1,506,358

ST. URSULA CHURCH



As you can see in the chart above, St. Ursula Church had a total deficit of (-\$30,221) in 2021 which includes the CEWS benefit of \$43,719. Total cash resources as of December 31, 2021 includes \$57,189 in the general account, \$43,174 in the Spirit and Life Centre account and \$353,113 in the capital Loan Fund with the diocese. Diocesan policy requires that funds in excess of current needs be invested in the Loan Fund. The parish receives interest on these funds.

In 2021 St. Ursula Church had a new digital mixer installed with a new ambo mic (costs covered by a benefactor) with some wiring repairs which fixed some speakers that have not worked in a long time. We installed new LED lighting in the narthex, hallways and chapel area. We also repainted and refreshed the rectory as this is the residence for Fr. John. In general, the building is in good shape with no planned major maintenance.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

As you can see in the chart above, St. Joseph Church had a total deficit of (-\$64,437) which includes the CEWS benefit of \$45,471. As of



December 31, 2021 we had \$73,635 in the general bank account, \$233,886 in the Spirit and Life Centre account, and \$204,038 in the capital Loan Fund account with the diocese.

In 2021 we installed a video live-streaming system (costs covered by a donor) and upgraded the sound system with digital mixers and new speakers in the church with donations that helped cover some of the costs. Volunteer labour also kept costs down. We also added new microphones in the choir loft and transept choir area (in thanks to donations from the Harwich CWL). New LED lighting was installed which has offered much better lighting with the benefit of much less hydro use. I am thankful to all four custodians who worked very hard to install the many bulbs required.

We know that both towers of the church will need major work from a July 27, 2018 report by POW PETERMAN Consulting Engineers. Both towers require some masonry work, mortar joint repairs, new caulking and repairs to flashing so that water does not come in. The preliminary report estimated the costs at \$487,000. We are awaiting for an updated quote with current costs.

Spirit & Life Centre—When the campaign started in 2015, all the St. Joseph donations were retained in a separate savings account, along with other capital donations for church restoration. At St. Ursula, a separate bank account was also used for campaign donations. In May 2018, the diocese requested that the St. Joseph Spirit and Life donations accumulated to that point (\$308,857) be transferred to the diocesan Loan Fund so that the funds earn a higher interest.

Back in 2018 some windows on the second floor were replaced at a cost of \$67,174 and in 2020 a new flat roof was required due to major leaks. These leaks caused water damage in the basement. The basement cannot be currently used. An initial payment of \$187,000 for the new flat roof was made in 2020 with a balance of another \$51,000 due in 2022 as this project comes to completion. Funds from the Spirit and Life account are being used for these payments.

ST. AGNES CHURCH



As you can see in the chart on page 3, St. Agnes Church had a deficit of (-\$9,971) which includes the CEWS benefit of \$38,670. The parish currently has \$63,111 in their general account and \$43,991 in the diocesan Loan Fund as of December 31, 2021.

Loan fund money that was originally reserved for a capital renovation of the interior of the church when Fr. Daniel Bombardier was the pastor, has been used to help cover operating costs for the last few years. The building itself is in good shape and there are no plans for renovations or upgrades.

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH



The chart on page 3 shows Blessed Sacrament had a surplus of \$44,826 which included a CEWS benefit of \$43,990. As of December 31, 2021 Blessed Sacrament had \$107,249 in their general account and \$181,061 in the diocesan capital Loan Fund

account. There are no plans for any renovations but quotes are being sought for the replacement of a broken air conditioning unit that serves the Good Shepherd Room and the entire stairwell of the addition built between the church and the rectory.

In 2021 we did install a new live-streaming system and permanently mounted a new projector (all covered by benefactors). We upgraded the sound system with a new digital mixer and moved the sound system into the Control Room (storage area in the choir loft) making more room available for musicians. We also added some extra lighting for

the sanctuary which benefits live-streaming but also sheds more light on the ambo and baptismal area.

OUR LADY OF VICTORY



As you see in the summary on page 3, Our Lady of Victory had a total deficit of (-\$5,264) and did not receive any CEWS funds because the church only covers a small portion of one priest in the family. CEWS is directed to support employee compensation. As of December 31, 2021, Our Lady of Victory had \$87,289 in their general account and \$58,622 in the diocesan Loan Fund.

The flat roof that spans the sacristy, hall, washrooms and hall kitchen is in need of replacement. The roof is beyond repair. In consultation with the diocese, tenders went out in December 2021 with the lowest bid at \$124,000 plus HST. After consultation with the OLV Building Committee and the Family Finance Committee, the bid was rejected and further consultation with the diocese occurred. Alternative quotes with varying options of roofs is currently in process. We are waiting for quotes from other roofing companies. This work will need to take place in spring 2022.

The back hall entrance doors have been replaced at no cost to the church in March 2022 (with thanks to the Polish Club). The choir loft railing will also be raised to be in line with current regulations. The hall kitchen fire suppression system is also currently being upgraded.

IN CONCLUSION

We as a family of parishes, along with all the parishes in the diocese, are facing a variety of pastoral and financial challenges that we are forced to face much sooner due to the pandemic.

We need staff, volunteers and financial resources to develop, support and grow ministries and programs so we can form disciples who reach out to those in need bringing people to Christ and our faith community. At the same time we face declining attendance, an aging population and buildings that require constant care and maintenance.

We cannot stay in our current circumstances for very long. Together, with the grace of the Holy Spirit, we need to discover a pathway that leads us from trying to maintain what we have to discerning what we need for the sake of our mission to proclaim the Gospel. I am confident that in the months and years ahead, we will find that path and continue to grow as one family together.