



**July 10, 2022 Update**

**PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

Dear Parishioners,

As I have communicated in the bulletin over the past few months and at our most recent parish assemblies, your feedback along with our pastoral planning efforts has identified many areas to grow our parish. We look forward to investing in vibrant ministries and mission activities such as evangelizing our youth and young adults, providing outreach services to our senior members and developing programs for our families. We have a strong plan for the future of our parish but our serious financial situation stands in the way of progression.

We have already reduced our expenses as far as we possibly can without sacrificing the sacramental and pastoral care of parishioners and are now faced with difficult decisions concerning the use of our church buildings. As reported at the last Parish Assembly, even with the reduction in expenses, we are running an annual deficit of approximately 200K. Due to the lack of income and the costs of daily operations, our parish barely has the means to support one church building and campus, but based upon pastoral need, I am recommending that two church buildings and campuses serve our parish moving forward.

I am currently evaluating all of our church buildings with the assistance of the Diocesan Facilities Office using updated Cannon Design Building reports and a Buildings Assessment Tool focusing on the criteria of pastoral need, the condition of each church building and associated costs. The key factors driving my recommendation will come down to location and what we need for mission and ministry. It is important to keep in mind that no single piece of information tells the whole story, nor does the data dictate what we should or should not do. Therefore, I am carefully examining all of the information about the use, condition, costs, and impact of the church buildings along with prayerful discernment to determine our best path forward in the context of providing pastoral care for our parish community.

Listed below are just some of the criteria considered as I conduct the building assessments:

- The quality and functionality of the worship space to celebrate Mass:
  - Is there adequate space for communal gathering and Greeters before and after liturgy?
  - Are the Reconciliation rooms in accord with liturgical norms and have signage?
  - Are restrooms accessible to the physically disabled in accord with ADA requirements?

- The impact on Ministry:
  - Does the campus meet the requirements of the Faith Formation program?
  - Do the number of large and small meeting rooms meet the needs of parish ministries?
  - Is there a Social Hall that fosters adequate space for the parish to gather for various functions? Consideration is given to size, location, lighting, sound system, handicapped accessibility, restrooms, kitchen, overall interior and exterior conditions, parking lot size and condition as well as health and safety standards.
  - Is the location of and the amount of storage space adequate for the needs of the parish?
- The impact on Location:
  - Are the church buildings adequately situated near clusters of parishioner residences?
  - Is the size and condition of the parking lot and available parking spaces/handicapped spaces adequate?
  - Is the church building accessible to the physically disabled in accord with current ADA requirements? Is there accessibility for funerals?
  - Does the proximity of church buildings allow for reasonable travel time between buildings from any area of the parish?

At this point, I am still in the process of conducting evaluations, but I will share my final building recommendations with all of you at the **Parish Assembly on Sunday, July 24 at 1:00pm at Most Blessed Sacrament Church**. After the presentation, you will have the opportunity to share your feedback and ask any questions. Please continue to check the bulletin and website for weekly updates.

I know that we are all deeply affected by this process. Such change and painful decisions are never easy. While we are now faced with the likely closures of several of our church buildings, please understand that we will in no way minimize the presence of Christ in our community. Our goal is to be even more present by investing in ministry, programs and personnel to enhance our mission and ministry to the elderly and homebound, youth and young adults, families and those in need.

Let us all do our best to work together, pray together and place our trust in the Lord as we move forward with renewed hope for the future.

I humbly ask for your continued prayers, patience and understanding as we continue this process.

God Bless,

Fr. John Lendvai