**2021 Parish Update**

*Your generosity over the past few years has allowed us to complete many maintenance and improvement projects. These projects, which were completed through your generous donations, include those inside the church and those which help preserve and secure the structure of the building. Below you will find an update on the capital campaign, current programs, and future projects.*

**Capital Campaign Breakdown.**

Invitations to participate in the capital campaign were sent to 426 families. 197 families (46%) responded with a one-time gift, a pledge, or that they were unable to give at this time. If any of you are still considering making a pledge, packets are available in the office. Any donation, regardless of the amount, is valuable since our church building and facilities are old and unexpected maintenance issues do occur with greater frequency.

***Campaign goal:***$450,000.00 ***Pledged to date:*** $423,100.00

***Total received:***  $306,675.00 which includes:

Online payments -- $13,665.00

Contributions/memorials -- $78,897.23

Pledged amount received -- $214,112.83

***Needy Parish loan from the diocese*** -- $74,599.00 (which is interest free and should be paid back in 5 years)

***Catholic Extension Grant:*** When we began the Capital Campaign a grant from Catholic Extension was applied for. I am happy to announce that we were awarded a matching grant of $39,000.00 and that these funds, when available, will be added to the capital campaign.

**Completed Projects**

1. **Roof Replacement**– **Angelo Luppino** removed the clay tiles on the roof last summer. They installed a 50-year warranty asphalt shingle on the church and rectory. (Cost- $161,881.00). **Wayne Nasi** replaced all the flat roofing over the Saint Joseph room. (Cost- $114,750.00)
2. **St Joseph Room Steps** – Aili Custom Concrete repaired the deteriorating steps this past spring and North Country Welding installed the new railings. (Cost- $12,835.00)
3. **Waterproofing Basement South Wall** – Angelo Luppino waterproofed the south wall to prevent future water coming into the parish hall. They installed an asphalt membrane to direct the water into the drain system at the base of the foundation. (Cost- $12,611.00)
4. **Sound System** – Our aging sound system has been upgraded with new digital system with Bose speakers and technology to support the recording for ***the radio Mass played on WUPM 106.9 at 7am on every Sunday*.** (Cost- $39,157.93) **Thanks for the Alumni Association for the donation of $20,000.00 towards the sound system which is included in the capital campaign pledges.**

**In Progress**

1. **Paving Parking Lots** – In spring or summer of 2022 all the parking lots will be repaved and additional grading on the east side of the school to control the water.
2. **Parish Hall Floor** – The parish hall floor will be replaced this winter by Action Floors. We have selected an Action Floor IG 400. This is an epoxy floor system that is easy to maintain and very durable.
3. **Restrooms in Parish Hall** -All three bathrooms will be upgraded. The women’s bathroom will get a full remodel since there was previous water damage. The men’s restroom and handicap restroom will get a facelift with new paint, toilets, lights, fixtures.

**Unexpected Repairs Not in Capital Campaign**

1. **Steam Pipe** – The steam pipe that runs from the church to the school was replaced this fall by the Jamar company from Duluth. They were able to fit us into their schedule after we located some sizeable holes in the steam pipe. The new pipe has a 50 year life expectancy. The new pipe cost was $86,000.
2. **Church Organ** – The church organ currently has a broken subwoofer that is causing a large vibration with the lower notes. The organ is also at the end of its expected life span. We are looking at a repair to get the organ working prior to Christmas or we may have to rent a temporary organ. We are looking forward to purchasing a new organ which is estimated at about $60,000. (We would highly appreciate your donations for this purpose)

We have many other projects *(painting interior of the church, exterior doors, acoustics panels to help the sound system reducing echo and reverbs in the church, stained glass window repairs)* that we are starting to look at in the church. All these projects can be completed due to the support of our parish family. Thank you for your continued support of Our Lady of Peace Parish.

I would like to thank Thomas Talaska, the finance council president, and Kathy Lahti for putting these figures together. I also would like to thank all the members of the finance and pastoral councils, parish staff, and volunteers for the wonderful service they render for the church.

**Online Giving:** It’s easy to make online payments to the church from our website homepage [***www.olopmi.org***](http://www.olopmi.org)***.***

**FORMED.ORG**: Our parish has subscribed to FORMED, a catholic streaming service, which is free for all parishioners. This will help our ongoing faith formation with 1000s of catholic resources. If you have not signed up for FORMED, please do so and experience a unique opportunity to explore the mysteries of our faith. To sign up visit FORMED.org on any device (television, phone, laptop, iPad, Kindle, our parish website), click Sign Up (it's Free), select "Sign Up as A Parishioner", find Our Lady of Peace Church by parish name, address, or zip code, and enter your email. If you have any questions or need help to sign up, please contact me or Alison.

**RCIA:** Are you someone, or do you know someone, who has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic? Has a child over the age of seven who has not been baptized? Was baptized Catholic as a child, but has not celebrated the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist? If the answer is yes, please contact the parish office to participate in our RCIA program.

**VACATION:** After four years of paperwork and COVID travel restrictions, I am finally able to go home to India and see my Mother and family. Please keep me in your prayers. It is a long flight, 20 – 22 hours, and current travel restrictions caused by the new variant of the COVID virus will make traveling a little more challenging. I will be leaving on December 28th and will return on February 11th. Fr. Ron Timock, a senior priest of our diocese, will fill in for me. He is looking forward to meeting you and all church schedules will remain the same.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your friendship and support as I minister to the parishioners and visitors of this parish. I try to do my best and am always open to suggestions for improvement. I look forward to seeing you at Mass and wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Fr. Binu Joseph.