



THE PASTOR'S POST

HEALING RAYS

Dear Parish Family:

There is a great image in the first reading today from the book of the prophet Malachi. The prophet writes to those who worship and love God that "the sun of justice with its healing rays" (Malachi 3:20a). As we move into darker days, literally, and some darker times we face in these moments, it's an image that offers me some consolation.



On this weekend, with the help of the Scriptures, I want to offer a little bit of a financial update about the parish. I am not going to speak at Masses this year as I spoke about these issues in the Spring. But I ask you to take some time with this letter and some of the other information in today's bulletin and, of course, if you have questions, ask! This is our parish and together we need to understand this part of our parish's life.

Gratitude. Thank you for your response. Each of the three Scripture readings today call for a response and I want to begin to thank you for that response. When I spoke to you in the Spring, I shared my deep concerns about the financial realities we were facing...and you responded....and responded...and responded. From an increase in Sunday collections, to so many who have offered their time and talent, to those who have served on committees, to those who have shared whatever resources they have had...wow! This Summer, we were able to handle most of our maintenance projects with our own staff and with so many volunteers, probably saved the parish close to \$100,000. Wow!

This year ending August 2025, we show a significant deficit in extraordinary expenses. That number is pretty volatile, if I can say, each year in positive and negative ways. This year, it is particularly negative because of some of the projects we had to undertake as well as our contributions to the diocesan bankruptcy settlement (\$388 K).

Now, don't stop! Over the past year, in response to those financial realities, we have reduced expenses, in some significant and painful ways. We are more stable financially but need to remain vigilant, particularly as some real challenges are on the horizon. You can see some efforts to maintain this between our encouragement to use online giving, the St. Brigid's Gala in February and much more. Again, and most important, thank you.

Buildings. A reality of our parish is the significant amount of buildings we need to maintain, repair, and restore. This is an enormous job on many levels - more than I can write about totally here. But let me give you a few updates.

Convent. We are in the process of working to sell the convent building and property. This will provide a significant fund for the parish - similar to the Millennium Fund - that can provide an investment in the parish each year. This will provide significant security for the parish for the future. Marcel Catafago, our Business Manager, Jenny Araujo, one of our parish trustees, and Matthew Cahill, the chair of our Finance Committee are spearheading this effort. This will not happen soon. If and when we find a buyer, it will take some time to navigate this sale. There is nothing definitive to report at this time. (If you want to buy the convent property :) or know someone who might, please contact Marcel Catafago.)

Restoration. In May, I met with volunteers who came forward to offer their wisdom and expertise to go through every building of our parish and to help us identify areas of greatest need and to determine an order of priority, considering safety first. Many of the projects we undertook over the Summer (parking lots, playgrounds, cement, painting, etc.) came from this initial evaluation. The committee reconvened in November and we are in the process of finalizing that list. This will require some commitment on our





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part in the months and years to come. One of my goals is to restore these buildings and keep them maintained so the parish never finds itself in a situation like this again.

The "top three" right now appear to be the columns in the front of the school on Maple Avenue, the floor of the Church, and the stone wall on Post Avenue. We are going to need a structural engineer to assist us. If you know someone or are one, please reach out. I do not want the parish to make any significant advances in money or time without having a solid foundation to work from.

Mission. This information shared with you can NEVER be separated from our mission of spreading the Gospel here at St. Brigid's. The financial and practical efforts are important, yes. If they are not connected to our common mission then we are wasting our time and effort. Here again, let us begin in gratitude. As I was preparing this column I tried to walk month by month to see the many ways this parish has united - in ways big and small, seen and unseen - to be the Body of Christ for one another. Think for a moment....consider the past year...I bet you can recall one or two things, for sure! What a sign of those healing rays, received and given. Whether it be the opening of a Thrift Shop and soup kitchen to serve those in need, a growing school built up by your support, a family faith formation program that is walking in a new and exciting rhythm, and an outreach program that never stops.....and all of this grounded in the liturgy and prayer of the Church. Wow!

Here, again, I need to say, "Don't stop!" The work of the Gospel is never finished. We can never

stop being aware, reaching out, serving, and challenging those on the margins. Is it exhausting? You bet! Overwhelming? Yup. A reason to stop - never! What will the weeks and months ahead bring, I really don't know. What will we face? How will we be called to respond in prayer and action? I'm not sure. I trust that we will be called to testify by our lives (Luke 21:13) and will require great perseverance (21:19).

I also recognize that some of us who may be reading this don't really feel part of this mission of St. Brigid's. There have been changes that have caused some to feel eliminated or disregarded. For others, it requires a change in thought and action that perhaps we're not ready to make. And for others, there is a feeling that you are not wanted or needed, feeling neglected or put off. For some that is the reality of a large, diverse parish and for others, I know, that's because of me in some way. In those moments where I am at fault, I am grateful to those who have shared concerns and hope to learn better ways to expand the mission. Each day, I am reminded, I have a lot to learn to be a better human.

St. Paul reminds us that he and his followers sought to set an example for others to follow. I hope we can do and be the same. I pray that as we face challenges and opportunities we do all we can to imitate Saint Paul, but even more importantly, Jesus Christ who will tell us all we need to say, do, and respond in these times. Then, I pray, as we bring the healing rays of our God to others they, will be inspired to do the same.

Please pray for me. I promise the same.



**St. Brigid
Parish Finances
for Fiscal Year end 8/31/25 with Budget for 2025-26**

	Budget 2025-26	FYE 8/31/25	FYE 8/31/24	FYE 8/31/23	FYE 8/31/22	one year change	pct	four year change	pct
Income									
Collection Revenue	\$ 1,639,300	\$ 1,582,885	\$ 1,496,296	\$ 1,366,759	\$ 1,317,794	\$ 86,589	5.8%	\$ 265,091	20.1%
Fund Raising Income	\$ 80,000	\$ 105,940	\$ 66,615	\$ 42,942	\$ 67,939	\$ 39,325	59.0%	\$ 38,001	55.9%
Parish Programs Revenue	\$ 325,100	\$ 343,916	\$ 385,259	\$ 481,004	\$ 314,038	\$ (41,343)	-10.7%	\$ 29,878	9.5%
Auxiliary Revenue	\$ 440,800	\$ 677,419	\$ 512,722	\$ 796,017	\$ 808,781	\$ 164,697	32.1%	\$ (131,362)	-16.2%
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 2,485,200	\$ 2,710,160	\$ 2,460,892	\$ 2,686,722	\$ 2,508,552	\$ 249,268	10.1%	\$ 201,608	8.0%
Expenses									
Salaries	\$ 659,000	\$ 681,667	\$ 675,919	\$ 715,250	\$ 765,182	\$ 5,748	0.9%	\$ (83,515)	-10.9%
Fringe Benefits	\$ 406,092	\$ 375,299	\$ 460,943	\$ 434,035	\$ 416,005	\$ (85,644)	-18.6%	\$ (40,706)	-9.8%
Fundraising	\$ 24,000	\$ 21,989	\$ 7,560	\$ 3,060	\$ 26,948	\$ 14,429	190.9%	\$ (4,959)	-18.4%
Parish Program	\$ 254,000	\$ 350,441	\$ 299,084	\$ 431,018	\$ 251,149	\$ 51,357	17.2%	\$ 99,292	39.5%
School Subsidy	\$ 190,320	\$ 190,320	\$ 190,320	\$ 186,860	\$ 179,940	\$ -	0.0%	\$ 10,380	5.8%
Printing and Office	\$ 138,450	\$ 155,163	\$ 154,986	\$ 153,475	\$ 148,256	\$ 177	0.1%	\$ 6,907	4.7%
Auxiliary	\$ 327,750	\$ 335,817	\$ 315,024	\$ 301,313	\$ 229,059	\$ 20,793	6.6%	\$ 106,758	46.6%
Rectory Household	\$ 21,000	\$ 22,155	\$ 18,264	\$ 17,818	\$ 25,955	\$ 3,891	21.3%	\$ (3,800)	-14.6%
Building, Utilities & Maint	\$ 460,300	\$ 529,016	\$ 392,680	\$ 443,262	\$ 415,451	\$ 136,336	34.7%	\$ 113,565	27.3%
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 2,480,912	\$ 2,661,867	\$ 2,514,780	\$ 2,686,091	\$ 2,457,945	\$ 147,087	5.8%	\$ 203,922	8.3%
Net Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 4,288	\$ 48,293	\$ (53,888)	\$ 631	\$ 50,607	\$ 102,181	-189.6%	\$ (2,314)	-4.6%
Non-Ordinary Operating Activity	\$ 75,575	\$ 289,460	\$ 397,483	\$ 180,634	\$ (335,163)	\$ (108,023)	-27.2%	\$ 624,623	-186.4%
Diocesan/3rd Party Collections (net)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -	
Extraordinary Activity (net)	\$ (214,400)	\$ (818,991)	\$ 175,428	\$ (166,312)	\$ (354,136)	\$ (994,419)	-566.9%	\$ (464,855)	131.3%
Net Total Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ (134,537)	\$ (481,238)	\$ 519,023	\$ 14,953	\$ (638,692)	\$ (1,000,261)	-192.7%	\$ 157,454	-24.7%

Notes:

The loss of the rental property in January 2024 resulted in the decrease in auxiliary revenue fro FYE 8/24 and also this past year. That is being addressed by reducing costs and increased generosity at Sunday Mass.

In 2024-25, parishes paid off the bankruptcy settlement; and in 2023-24, we realized profits from the sale of the convent on Maple Ave. Those two events resulted in the shift of \$1M