



SAINT FRANCES CABRINI PARISH

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saintfrancescabrini.com

Saint Frances Cabrini Parish Mid-Year Update *Summer 2021*

Dear Friends at Saint Frances Cabrini Parish: Praised be Jesus Christ! Per custom, with this summer letter please find some important updates about our parish family.

Mid-year Giving Record

- Enclosed with this letter is the record of any donations we have received from you in the period of January 1st through June 30th, 2021.
- Please review it carefully and inform the parish office right away if you notice any errors in the record so that we can correct them. Our office phone number is 262-338-2366 and you may ask for Bill Neureuther (business manager).

Thank You for Your Generosity!

- Even with all of the challenging circumstances we have all dealt with this past year, the giving in the parish continues to be amazingly generous.
- Our stewardship giving has held steady throughout the year which has been a tremendous help to our daily operations that rely on a steady cash flow.
- Our parish school experienced an exceptionally good fundraising year. Many of you contributed to the school's annual fund, helping to push us well past our goal for this year to collect the amazing amount of approximately \$60,000.
- The spring car raffle also generated a profit of approximately \$50,000 for the school, and the golf outing a profit of approximately \$10,000.
- We would not be able to do all the work that we do across our whole parish campus if it were not for the generosity of each of us offering our prayers, our time, our skills, and our dollars. Know of my admiration and appreciation.

Big News: The Mortgage is Paid Off!

- The parish was extremely fortunate late this spring to receive a very large and unrestricted estate gift in the amount of \$762,000.
- The Pastoral Council and Finance Council both agreed that our best use of these monies would be to pay the remaining balance of our mortgage with Westbury Bank and retire our debt, a project we have been working on for 21 years.
- On June 23rd, we paid out the full remaining amount of the mortgage: \$319,911.
- The Councils have requested that the remaining money from this same estate be used to create a much-needed operations reserve, as well as a much-needed reserve for future unplanned expenses, most especially facilities repairs.

KNOW HIM. LOVE HIM. SERVE HIM.

A Capital Campaign is Coming Soon

- The happy news of the sudden retirement of the parish debt arrived at about the same time that we learned we would soon be entering into a new capital campaign, with both pieces of news launching us into the next round of plans for our future.
- Archbishop ListECKI is asking every parish in the Archdiocese to raise funds for a variety of needs. All monies raised in the upcoming Archdiocesan-wide capital campaign will be divided between the needs, or “case” of the Archbishop’s priorities and the needs or “case” generated by each parish.
- Parishes across the Archdiocese are entering fully into the campaign in differing waves of timing. Saint Frances Cabrini Parish will most likely enter the campaign pledge period beginning this coming January of 2022.
- Between now and then the Pastoral Council will be assessing a range of potential items that could be incorporated into the final fundraising case for our parish needs.
- We hope to invite the wider parish to offer initial feedback on these items as we build our case. As we approach the Fall please watch for information about how you will be able to learn of our pressing needs and to offer your voices to the decision making process.

What To Donate Toward In the Meantime

- We anticipate a comprehensive input and planning process for the upcoming case for the capital campaign. Knowing this, it would be helpful to hold any donations for special, non-stewardship type items that you might be planning to give until the campaign launches in January. Doing so allows these gifts to be counted as part of the campaign goal and our overall case of needs.
- If delaying on any larger or special gift until this January is not possible, be aware that we have also created a Building Fund which can receive donations at any time. The use of the monies in the Building Fund is restricted to facilities improvements or major repairs anywhere on the campus. We can utilize the monies in this fund at any time.
- Be aware that the upcoming capital campaign case will very likely include components that address facilities needs here at the parish.
- Be aware also that it will be very important for all of us to maintain our regular stewardship giving to the operations of the parish in addition to the pledges that we will be making for the campaign case. We are always happy to receive extra donations to fund our regular operations at any time.

The Skylight is Gone and Other Church Repair Updates

- In the last few years we have installed a new roof on substantial portions of the church building, including the very top of our steeple tower.
- Even with these replacements the tower roof has continued to leak, but in a manner that does not follow any consistent precipitation or weather pattern outdoors.
- Conversations with several roofers led us to believe that the source of the persistent leaking was very likely the skylight above the altar that was part of the church’s original design. Skylights in general are difficult to totally seal against invasive water, and they also create problematic temperature gradient differences between outside and inside air that cause condensation to form inside of roof structures causing interior dripping.
- All of this led us to decide to remove the skylight completely and cover over the opening with a solid roof which we also insulated to form a proper temperature vapor barrier.
- We will now watch for any drips over the course of the next year, going through an entire cycle of seasons, to make sure this has stopped the problem.

- If the drips still come, then our last possible fix is to remove all of the exterior stainless steel panels on the entire tower and wrap the whole structure in an ice and water shield. We would then have to replace all the panels. That work will be considerably more expensive than what it cost us to remove the skylight. We are going to hope that such a major repair job is not going to be necessary.
- It is critical that we stop the leaks in the church before we proceed at any later date with possible renovation work inside the church itself.
- Unfortunately, the exposed insulation and underside of the new roof decking that replaced the skylight will remain as it looks now until the day we do decide to renovate the church because the only way we can get at it in order to install drywall and paint is with scaffolding.
- Scaffolding is a major expense and is best utilized as part of a larger renovation project to maximize the dollars spent on it. We will wait on any work of this nature until more decisions are made about the future of the interior of the worship space.

New Lights

- We also recently completed the replacement of all the light bulbs in the main worship space with new LED bulbs.
- The next phase of our light replacement will involve a total re-design and replacement of the lighting in the sanctuary and altar area, which now looks much darker in the absence of the skylight. The new lighting will be much brighter.
- We also plan to upgrade the lighting that illuminates the side walls of the worship space that include the stations of the cross.
- We hope to complete both of these remaining lighting upgrades this summer or fall.

An Interior Church Renovation Masterplan

- In the past year we did develop a detailed renovation scheme and design for the interior of the church in order to guide any future repair work within the guidelines of a masterplan. The skylight removal was done with this masterplan in mind.
- The lighting decisions and upgrades are also being guided by the masterplan for the church's interior.
- Our upcoming conversations about a capital campaign case statement will take into consideration this masterplan for the church interior, weighing its components with all the other campus needs that we have been evaluating in the past year.

Removed Lower Canopies

- The two lower-level entry canopies were removed last year because we discovered during our final phases of parking lot work that they were structurally unsound.
- We are still considering future plans for any new entrance canopies at either the lower level or possibly even on the 7th street level.
- We hope to complete the clean-up and repair work on the lower exterior brick walls in the spaces previously occupied by the old canopies before this winter.

Mass Attendance Is Up... And It Can Come Up More

- Our weekend Mass attendance at Saint Frances Cabrini and at Saint Mary's Immaculate Conception continues to slowly rebound to the levels that we were at pre-Covid.
- The rebound in our case is less dramatic than it has been elsewhere because our attendance levels were comparatively high all during the year, running at between 60% to 80% of our normal numbers.
- As we move through the summer we are averaging 80% to 90% of our normal.
- While this is wonderful news, it is important to note that we can always be working on the goal of increasing our Mass attendance.

- I sense that as a result of Covid some of us have grown comfortable with the practice of viewing Mass online or on television as a substitute for coming in person. Be aware that unless there is a significant health reason that impedes someone from coming to Mass, there is no substitute for in-person liturgy. Praying at home as opposed to at Mass is not the Catholic way and it is allowed only by way of an exception, not the norm. If one is healthy, one needs to be at Mass.

Excellence in Education: Day School, Little Saints Early Learning Center, Catholic Formation

- Demographics drive everything in the world, and obviously they impact the size of our youth formation programming all of which is much smaller than it was even a decade ago.
- Even with smaller numbers, we continue to run excellent programs that enjoy a great reputation in West Bend.
- Among other new developments this year in the parish school is the addition of a school counselor who is evenly shared with Holy Angels School. This will be a tremendous resource to assist our students and families with their social and emotional needs.
- Also new this year in the school will be new smartboards and laptops made possible by some special government stimulus monies that we are able to receive.
- Newly added to our formation ministry is the Little Saints Early Learning Center that offers care and instruction from ages 6 weeks old through age 3. Little Saints has experienced tremendous growth in the past few months and our families love it.
- We are blessed to have excellent staff leading our school, early learning center, formation programs (including the Journey Program for special needs students) who are all supported by faithful volunteers, and also by sizeable financial support from all of you in the parish.
- Please recommend our programs to anyone that you know. We welcome new students all throughout the year.

Everyone is Invited to the Fall Picnic!

- The pastoral councils of both parishes really wanted to create an opportunity for people to gather together again in person to celebrate the gift of being a parish family.
- On Sunday, October 3rd, Saint Mary's and Saint Frances Cabrini will be holding a Fall Picnic, hosted this year on the grounds of Saint Frances Cabrini with the hope of rotating the location between the two parishes in coming years.
- This is not a fundraiser so the costs to attend will be minimal. The sole purpose of it is to gather together for simple, family fun. Stay tuned for all the details.

Jesus Christ is Lord!

- As we enter a new formation year, per custom, we will be praying with a new campus-wide formation theme that will shape our prayer, formation, and stewardship.
- The theme comes from Saint Paul's Letter to the Philippians, Chapter 2, verse 11: "Jesus Christ is Lord!"
- Jesus Christ is indeed the Lord. This was true 2,000 years ago and it is true today. With him as our leader we can be filled with every hope, and we can be full of confidence in our future. We live as adopted sons and daughters of the Father, giving Christ our fullest allegiance, obedience, and love.
- Jesus Christ is Lord! We know him, we love him, and we serve him.

