

ST. JEROME CATHOLIC CHURCH



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Sunday, July 1, 2018

Dear St Jerome Family,

Hopefully you have noticed the new ceiling and lighting in the church narthex. Thanks to a generous anonymous donation we have begun to breathe life back into our welcoming space. Over the summer, work will continue to freshen the area and to make it a warm and inviting space that draws people in.

In 1987 the people of St. Jerome Parish dedicated our current facility and it has served us well. In its 30+ years our building has been well used and well loved. As we began the narthex project, we took the opportunity to make a true assessment of other maintenance needs around the facility and found that when you put it all on paper it is more than a little overwhelming. The following is a list of items that we recognize demands our attention in the immediate future:

Main Line Plumbing	\$12,000
Grease Trap Replacement	\$6,000
Narthex Improvements	\$8,000
Relocation of the Tabernacle	\$5,000
Ceiling Repairs and Painting inside the Sanctuary	\$20,000
Fire System	\$10,000
Parking Lot Repairs and Sealing	\$8,500
St. Joseph Hall Improvements	
Ceiling	\$7,500
Lighting	\$2,500
Painting	\$5,000
Heating/Cooling	tbd
Church Roof/Gutters/Downspout	tbd
Misc Outbuilding Maintenance	tbd

As you can see, the pending expenses to make necessary repairs to our church home are considerable. It didn't take long to recognize that these expenses far exceed our regular operating budget.

Many of the above items impact our church community on a daily basis and their failures cause ripples into our ministries. We cannot host any large-scale gathering or parish event requiring use of the kitchen (e.g. Chicken Dinner) until the grease trap is replaced. Any time we have a large volume of people using the church we run the risk of a sewer backup. The overall condition of St. Joseph Hall reflects poorly on the St. Jerome community any time we open our doors to a grieving family after a funeral.

Please take a moment to review the above list. Think about these projects and the positive impact their completion will have on our St. Jerome community. Every month there is an envelope labeled "Building Fund" in your giving packet. In the spirit of the generous donation that sparked our initial narthex improvement and the compilation of the above project list, we ask you to prayerfully consider how you can help to meet the cost of some of these improvements. If there is a particular project that speaks to you, be it an entire underwriting or contribution towards, we invite you to make note of it with your donation. All monies collected from those envelopes or with memo notations will be used to offset expenses incurred from the above improvements list. If you have any questions about the pending projects contact the parish office.

In His Service,

Fr. Kevin Laughery, the Parish Finance Council, and your Parish Staff