



ST. GABRIEL CHURCH

January, 2018

Dear Fellow Parishioner,

When we on the Finance Committee begin to feel a little nostalgic, we begin to share our memories of being students of St. Gabriel School. Some of our fondest memories are of attending Sunday Mass together every Sunday. We were assigned a Mass to attend based on our grade. As older students, we were lucky enough to visit Stella's for a Sundae after Mass. What we did not realize at the time is the depth of the gift we were given. This gift of faith which our parents and teachers saw blossom and grow in us was something we took for granted. But it was a remarkable gift. This faith which allows us to believe with all our hearts that bread and wine are changed through the words of the celebrant into the Body and Blood of Christ. This same belief also tells us that our life on earth is a temporary stop on the way to heaven which God has given to us through His Son. This belief helps us celebrate the great things in life that happen to us on our journey and also helps sustain us when we hit a bump in the road, as we all do now and then. We are grateful to everyone who gave us this faith and helped it to grow in our lives.

We also have an obligation to pass this faith on to our children and their children. We owe the people who were so good to us a debt of gratitude. More than anything, we owe God and the Son of God for the gift of Salvation that has been promised to each of us. We believe there is a slight disconnect here. It seems that we are not passing on what was given to us. How else can we explain that in a parish of 620 registered families with approximately 2500 registered people that we cannot get 400 of them to attend Mass on Sunday. And from a parish school with over 170 students, we can't get 30 of them to attend Sunday Mass. Attendance at Sunday Mass is a commandment, something we as Catholics are required to do. It is also something we owe God in thanksgiving for the life of his Son which guaranteed us Salvation.

So as Catholics, we are failing our children, we are failing all those wonderful people who gave us our faith and most important of all we are failing in our obligation to God. This is something we can correct and change but it will require us to put God and our Families first. This is something we need to think hard about in the next few weeks and months as 'merger-mania' begins in our area.

Let us all take a moment to think about our obligation to the past, to our children and to God.

Sincerely,

St. Gabriel Finance Committee

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