



SAINT MARY'S
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

406 Jefferson Street • West Bend, WI 53090 • 262-338-5600 • www.stmaryparishwb.org

Saint Mary's Immaculate Conception Parish Mid-Year Update: Summer 2021

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

Mid-year Giving Record: Thank You for Your Generosity!

- 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 Rhonda Prim in the parish office right away if you notice any errors in the record so that we can correct them. Our office phone number is 262-338-5600.
- 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, allowing us to fund our ministries and to fund important repairs and improvements to the campus. Know of my admiration and appreciation for all of your sacrifices.

A Capital Campaign is Coming Soon

- Archbishop Listecki is asking every parish in the Archdiocese to raise funds for a variety of needs in a capital campaign entitled "Love One Another." All monies raised in the upcoming Archdiocesan-wide Love One Another 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 Mary's Immaculate Conception Parish will most likely enter the campaign pledge period beginning about a year from now, in the early Fall 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 will also be inviting the wider parish to offer initial feedback on these items as we build our case.

Campus Repairs and Updates, Now and Later

- With an eye to an upcoming capital campaign and any facilities updates we might include in its case, we are continuing to move ahead right now with important work around the campus, funding them with existing sources of revenue.
- Some of the work simply cannot wait, and some of it is being done as a preparation for future phases of improvements that we know will need to happen in the next few years.
- We continue to battle water and drainage issues at various locations around the church foundations. To combat this, we are currently installing the core components of an underground tile, drain, and storm sewer system that can be expanded in the future. We are re-routing some of the roof downspouts on the church to move water quickly away from the building, and we are correcting several pitch issues with the sidewalks between the church and the school. We will also finally be able to finish the upgrades to the school garage driveway as part of all of the new grading and drainage work.
- A future phase of this same type of work will require a reconstruction and replacement of the front step approaches and sidewalks to the main church entrance which we will be able to accurately plan for once these initial grading phases are completed.

In the Heart of Barton



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- In a historic surprise, when removing the bank of lawn next to the old school driveway we uncovered a large, field-stone cistern likely dating to the first years of the church, which was full of water. It had been fed at one point by the downspouts from the church roof. We speculate that perhaps this underground tank was constructed to provide a ready source of emergency water in the days before there were wells, sewers, and fire hydrants. Unfortunately, we could not save the old artifact and it has been removed.
- Other important repairs and updates that are in progress or are scheduled for this summer/fall include: a new roof for the rectory offices, new front concrete steps for the rectory offices, structural and roof repair work to the school garages, a total overhaul and restoration of all the church windows which will include installing protective storm windows, the completion of fire alarm upgrades to the church and school, and the replacement of the fan motors of all the heating units in the school.

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. 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.

Everyone is Invited to the Fall Picnic!

- 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.

Fr. Nathan

In the Heart of Barton