

# The Church of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

Dear Parish Family,

We have a reason to celebrate for the generous stewardship of treasure to the mission of the parish. First of all over the past three years our parishioners have closed the gap between ordinary income and expenses. We are very likely to end the year in the black! I have been moved by your generosity. Moreover, our parish has been extremely generous in assisting the recent diocesan wide campaigns.

Our challenge lies in our extraordinary costs. Over the past five years our savings has dwindled from nearly \$540,000 dollars to \$172,000. The loss of revenue to cover ordinary expenses required us to withdraw a great deal of money from our savings. The remainder of our savings has dwindled from the upkeep of our buildings and grounds.

This challenge is "Our Challenge." As we consider responding to Our Challenge we must keep in mind the spirit of stewardship. In the 1980's Msgr. Thomas McGread introduced the notion of Stewardship as a "Way of Life" to our Diocese. Sadly, Msgr. recently died. At his funeral Bishop Emeritus Eugene Gerber shared during his eulogy that Msgr. McGread believed in stewardship as something even deeper than a way of life. Bishop identified Msgr.'s approach to stewardship as "a way of trust."

Once we understand stewardship as a way of trust it becomes much easier to understand why Jesus spoke of the use of money and possessions more than any other subject. Our sacrifice of treasure directly reflects our trust in God's care for us. Moreover, when our sacrifice of treasure is given in trust to the One we love with "all our heart, soul, mind and strength," we no longer look at our tithe as giving to a need, but more as a need to give. This movement from giving to a need to the need to give is at the heart of the New Evangelization. Those who love intensely must give immensely!

The response to our Challenge may not be so much about the needs of the parish, but experiencing the love of God that inspires in our hearts a need to give.

Ad majorem Dei gloriam,

Fr. John F. Jirak, Pastor

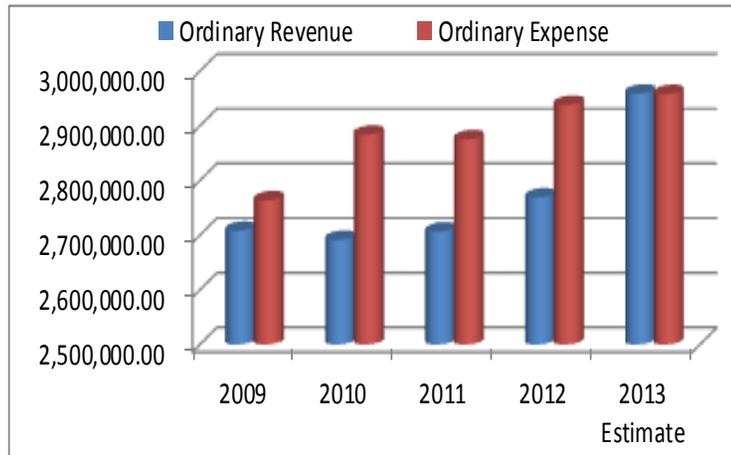


## 2013 Parish Financial Update

# Where have we been...

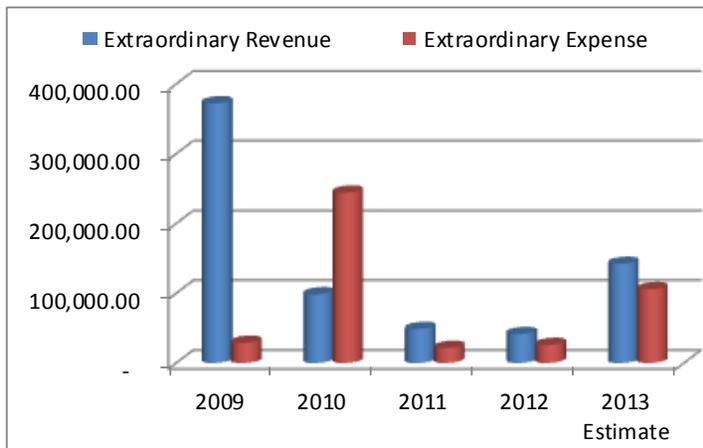
## Ordinary Income and Expense

Ordinary Income is primarily made up of your family's tithe. Normal operating expenses include the parish tithe to the Diocese, grade school and high school financial support, parish employee salaries and benefits, parish utilities and office and volunteer supplies.



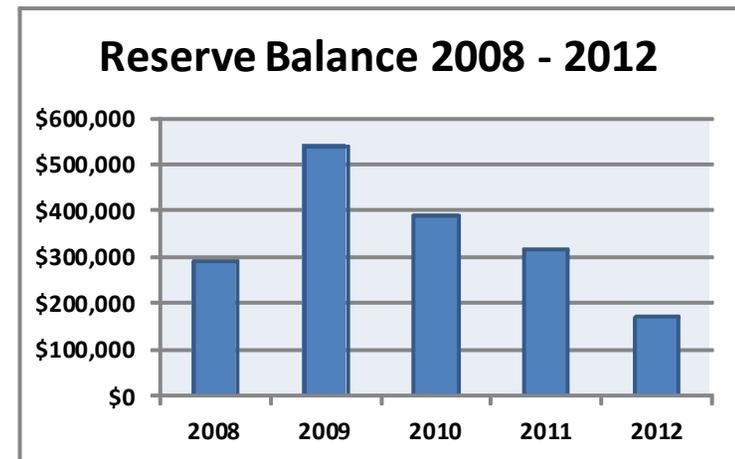
## Extraordinary Income and Expense

Extraordinary income includes Bequests and Memorials. Extraordinary expenses include major repairs (Roof), special construction projects (Adoration Chapel) and funding the Reserve and Replacement Savings Account.



## Cash Reserves

Since the recession of 2007-2009, parish revenues have not met the expenses while the level of services offered to our parish families have continued to increase. Since actual revenues have consistently fallen short of actual expenses, the cash reserves have decreased from a high of \$540,000 in 2009 to \$172,000 in 2012. Recently the maintenance staff found a crack in the church boiler and the estimated cost to replace the church heating and air system is \$230,000. At this point in time we do not have sufficient reserves to pay for this replacement.



Do you give to a need? ...

... Or do you need to give?

## Where are we now...

### Operating Budget

For the past four years the Finance Council has recommended budget increases of 1% to 4% in annual giving (revenues) to maintain the current level of services. In those four years the annual revenues have not kept pace with the budgeted increase of 1% to 4%. The parish and school have made cuts in order to balance the budget.

#### Previous Cuts to Operations of School & Parish

- 2010: Freeze on all staff & teacher increases
- 2011: Cut 1% of all staff & teacher salaries and recess aides

The Finance Council is currently anticipating that our 2013 Revenue will meet or slightly exceed expenses. This is great news for our Parish! For the first time in years with our parishioners support, we expect to be in the black!

### Parish/School Staff & Teachers

Our Grade School is routinely recognized for academic excellence by the State of Kansas. Over the past several years numerous students have been awarded certificates for exemplary testing scores in reading, math and science. Freshmen surveys repeatedly express that students felt very prepared for the challenges of high school. We have made great efforts over the past several years to fairly compensate our teachers. The diocese has set a goal for our schools to pay our teachers 85% of what the area public schools pay. Blessed Sacrament was one of the few parishes to meet this mark. However, parish/school staff and teachers salary increases have not kept pace with inflation and public schools. Our teachers have received less than a 1% increase over the last 5 years.

## Where we going...

### Capital Needs

Blessed Sacrament has aging facilities that include a 85 year old original school building, a 62 year old church and a 55 year old middle school. These facilities continue to need ongoing maintenance and improvements. These improvements with maintenance and other projects are estimated to cost **\$825,000 over the next 5 years.**

#### Projects

|                                   |                   |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Church Air, Heat and Air Handler  | \$ 230,000        |
| School Light Fixture Replacement  | \$ 50,000         |
| Church Roof and Parking Lot       | \$ 115,000        |
| School Air, Heat and Air Handlers | \$ 240,000        |
| School Playground Replacement     | \$ 120,000        |
| KMC Pledge for 7 years            | \$ 70,000         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                      | <b>\$ 825,000</b> |

### Operating Reserves and Replacement

In addition to the ongoing capital needs of the parish noted in the chart above and in order to allow for stability of parish operations and financial wellness, the capital reserves need to be replenished. The reserve and replacement account allowed the parish to weather the economic downturn and revenue shortfall over the last 5 years. When we start replacing the church heating and air system, there will be no money remaining for unexpected expenses. As a parish we will need to prayerfully consider a prudent level of savings to assume the fulfillment of our mission when difficult times arrive again.

Do you give to a need? ...

... Or do you need to give?

**\$2,800**

average annual tithe... Where is your family?

**100%**

of Blessed Sacrament parish graduates have decided to continue receiving a Catholic education at one of the two Catholic High Schools over the past 5 years

**1,022**

families in Blessed Sacrament  
9.2% increase in parishioners since 2009

**\$1,900,000**

amount parishioners individually contributed towards the Together Vision

## Tithing Contributions

From July 2011 to June 2012

| Families | Amount Contributed  |
|----------|---------------------|
| 256      | Zero                |
| 150      | \$500 or Less       |
| 85       | \$500 to \$1,000    |
| 339      | \$1,000 to \$5,000  |
| 163      | \$5,000 to \$70,000 |
| 993      | Total Families      |

**70**

active ministries that offer services at Blessed Sacrament

**85%**

amount our teachers make compared to the public teachers in Wichita Public schools.

**6.43%**

Blessed Sacrament parish family average annual tithe percent from estimated income

*Do you give to a need? ...*

*... Or do you need to give?*