

Finance Council report to the Parish for 2016

We are presenting our annual finance report and update to our parish. It is a privilege to serve on the Parish Finance Council bringing you a good news report again this year.

Our parish community at St. Peter's continues to enjoy many blessings. We are blessed with **our clergy**, Fr. Jerome, Fr. Jonathan and Deacon Tom who provide great nourishment through our liturgies and spiritual events. We are blessed with **a great team** in the office leading our sacraments, our faith formation, special events, our social media presence and the administration of the parish. We are blessed with **ministries filled with servants** who work tirelessly to build the kingdom through prayer and action. We are blessed with **committed members** of the Parish Council and Finance Council to ensure our time, talent and treasure is used in alignment with the vision of our pastor. And finally we are blessed that we all have each other, **the members of the parish** to hold each other up in prayer and in worship.

These blessings manifest in many ways, one of which is financial.

Our year-over-year regular collections show a 4% increase in 2015 over 2014. Considering current economic realities in Alberta, this is something we are very grateful for.

Our Together in Action commitment for 2015 was reached. For 2016, the diocese has set our parish goal as \$67,850. You should have received your forms to donate in the mail in the last few weeks.

We have collected over \$28,000 to date on behalf of the Syrian refugee family that St. Peter's has sponsored.

We are again sponsoring and partaking in a Feed the Hungry event at the end of September.

Our sacramental programs, for both children and adults, are flourishing.

We have been maintaining a higher than usual cash balance in our accounts to ensure timely payment of invoices for our renovation projects.

The Rock of Our Faith Campaign and Building project is gaining momentum. We are learning and experiencing how bureaucracy can get in the way of speed! However, we are seeing movement and have responded to the final requests from the city to update the architectural drawings.

To date we have approximately \$1 Million committed to the building fund. The benefit of a building fund is that money collected for that purpose is for that purpose only, and no portion of that is assessed by the diocese in our annual fee. We have an additional \$500,000 in pledges to be paid in the upcoming 1-5 years.

Henri Nouwen, a Catholic priest and author, has written Spirituality Series of books. In his “A Spirituality of Fundraising”, he shares some intriguing and profound perspectives on asking for money – acknowledging this is something that makes us uncomfortable. St. Paul in his letters to the Corinthians reminds us of two things

- If we are raising funds for the creation of a community of love, our Church, we are helping God build the kingdom. “Make love your aim” 1 Corinthians 14:1
- In 2 Corinthians 9:11 St. Paul reminds us “You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity”.

We are asking that you consider a pledge to the Rock of Our Faith campaign if you haven’t already, a one-time contribution or another contribution. You can be assured that the money that is being entrusted to build this kingdom is appreciated and used respectfully. And it is not too early to start planning for your next year’s taxes – charitable contributions are great at reducing taxes!

On behalf of Fr. Jerome, Fr. Jonathan and the finance council, we thank you for your commitments to our faith, St. Peter’s Church and to building the kingdom. I and other members of the finance council will be at the back of the church for any follow-up information you would like. Copies of the financial statements are available at the back of the church for your reference.

Thank you