

Five Reasons to Support Holy Family's 2016 Offertory Enhancement Efforts

For the following reasons, Holy Family Parish would like to improve both the *predictability* and *amount* of annual offertory revenues:

1. More predictability in budgeting.

Offertory revenues are 85% of total parish revenues. In annual budgeting we need to make sure expenses aren't going to exceed expected revenues. Many parishioners make offertory contributions in weeks that they attend Mass but not otherwise. We would like to encourage more consistent offertory contributions by parishioners signing up for recurring electronic auto pay, which doesn't involve paper checks.

2. Avoid dependence on one-time fundraisers to balance operating budget.

We had a successful wine tasting event in early February, and we are planning a fun casino night for June 3. But we're heavily dependent on those events to balance the current year's operating budget. That is not ideal. We should instead be able to earmark proceeds from such events for special needs or projects outside the annual operating budget.

3. Personnel needs.

a. Holy Family Parish has not filled some vacant staff positions the last few years due to lack of expected revenues. We like to fill a few of those positions – such as a more full-time development person. We expect that position to more than pay for itself over time.

b. Also due to lack of available revenues, Holy Family Parish staff have received no salary adjustments the last few years (except small cost-of-living adjustments). As a consequence, our salaries have not kept up with staff salaries at other parishes. We have a good, hard-working staff, and we need to pay them fairly and retain them.

4. Implement Pastoral Council Plan.

Pastoral Council is working on a new five-year plan that will be announced soon. That plan includes some new faith formation and other programs that are responsive to parishioners' requests. Some of those new programs should have a positive impact on Mass attendance and parish membership. But we will need enhanced revenues to implement some of those programs.

5. Rebuild parish financial reserves.

Parish revenues were essentially equivalent to parish expenses in the most recently completed fiscal year, and a similar result is expected in the current fiscal year. However, the parish had operating deficits in several consecutive prior years, and there is no reserve (or "cushion") left. We would like to rebuild the reserve gradually over the next few years.