




Visitation
CATHOLIC CHURCH

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

What word can best describe what life in Visitation has been like since the pandemic broke upon us in 2019? Roller-coaster? Uncertainty? Fear? Loneliness? Anger? All the above? With all that has happened over the last two years - the lockdown, the slow re-opening, masses outdoors in three different locations in the heat and the cold, no Christmas or Easter masses at church, home-schooling, mandatory masks, then not, then back on, to vaccinate or not to vaccinate, and what about the children? - we can find ourselves whiplashed into exhaustion. So many times I have felt, "God, I am DONE with all this." What happened to us is the sort of thing that can shatter a community. But what I have seen in Visitation has made me so proud. Remember when the lockdown began, how we responded? School parents volunteered to bring groceries to the homebound. People daily brought food to the rectory for St. Margaret Center. Without missing a beat, our Sunday and daily masses immediately went online with our musicians and our newly formed video ministry providing quality liturgies the best as could be offered over a computer device. The lockdown was not a shutdown. We all found out what ZOOM was and met the challenge. Our school teachers were fantastic as they learned to teach online for the first time ever. Our religious education program (PREP) did the same, teaching the faith not just to children, but their parents as well. Confirmation classes were likewise offered to our Teens. Even RCIA met online and I am happy to say that we were

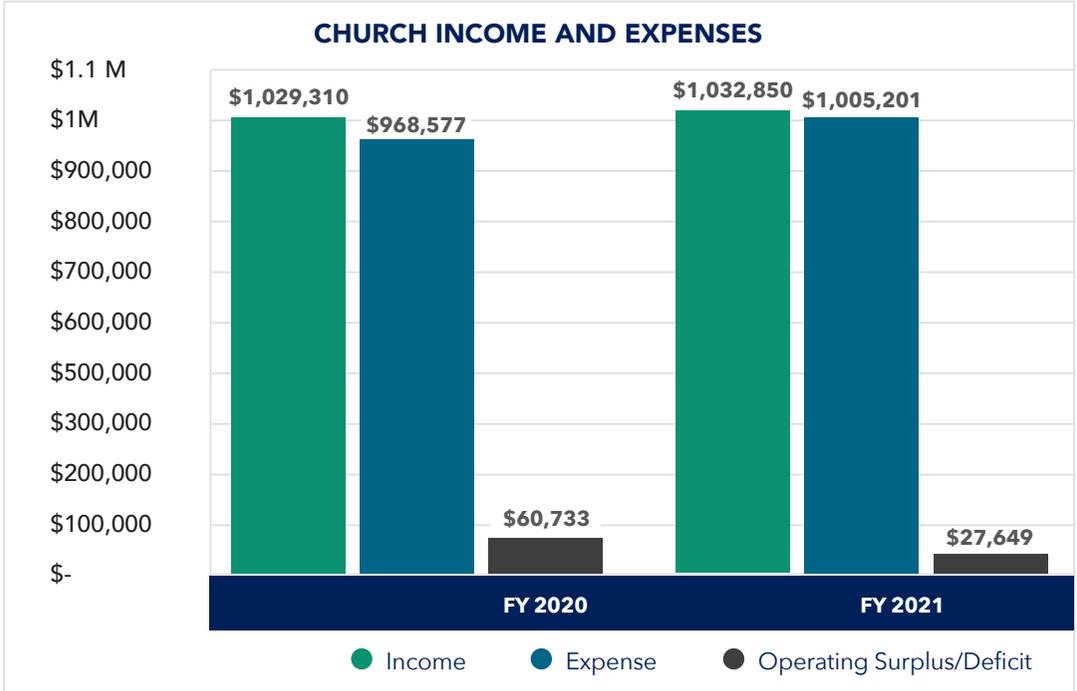
still able to bring people into the faith despite the challenging circumstances. Our school and parish leaders made the outdoor reception of First Communion and Confirmation even more special than before. People pitched in trying to keep parishioners connected by calling ever single registered family in the parish... twice! Renew Visitation continued and we were able to restore our church to its original beauty. Air conditioning has been put into School Building #1, (Hopefully, soon into Building #2. Final restoration of the O'Sullivan Hall is also in the works.) Despite the severe limitations, the parish staff, the school staff, the Parish Pastoral Council, the PTO, the Liturgy Committee along with all our liturgical ministers - ushers, Eucharistic ministers, lectors - all continued to serve the people in spite of the risk involved and the sacrifice needed. Even when we were all locked into our homes, people still drove by the rectory to drop off their donations which kept our parish on its feet. Our priests continued to celebrate sacraments, go into homes to anoint the dying, visit the sick in hospitals regardless of their own health issues. The sacrifices that I have seen over the past two years has made me love this parish more than ever and has revealed the true character of our community: *loving service*.

We pray at every mass for an end to this pandemic. Who knows what's next? I have quit trying to see the future. But what I do know is that whatever comes, our parish will not just soldier on. It will continue to flourish.

FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE PARISH

I am pleased to report that the Parish income, despite the difficulties of the past 2 years, is consistent. While expenses have continued to rise, we finished the last two years with an operating surplus, meaning that our operating income exceeded our expenses. As you can see in the chart on the right, our income is up and even with the increased expenses, we are at an operating surplus of nearly **\$28,000** for FY 2021.

In FY 2021, **55%** of our income came from Mass Donations on Sundays, Holy Days, Christmas and Easter. In fact, these donations were up almost **\$112,000** from FY 2020. In the height of a pandemic, our parishioners donated even more.

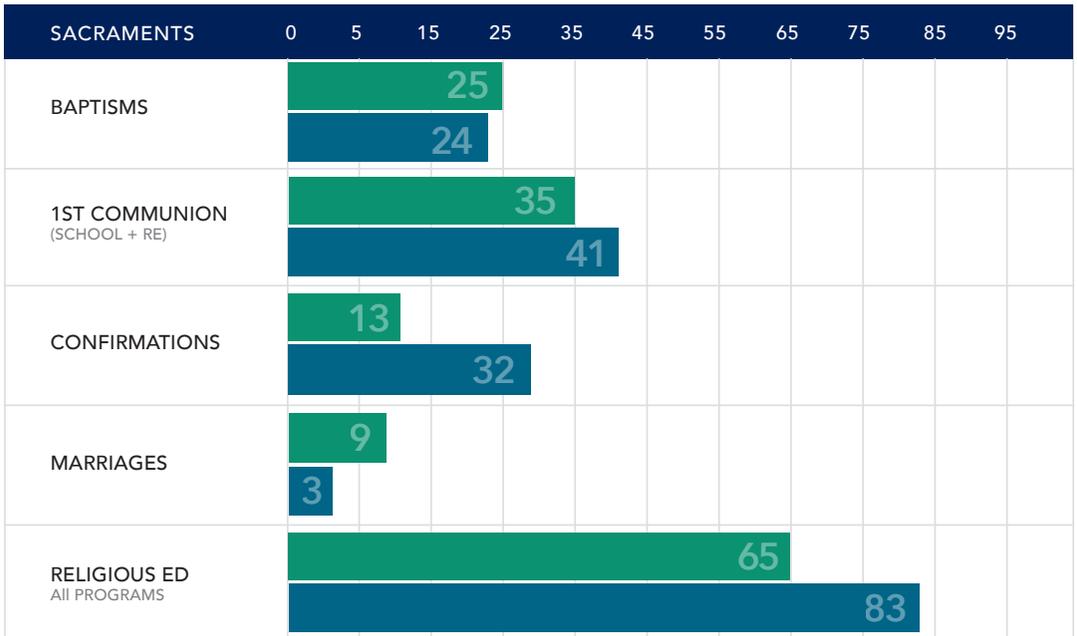


SPIRITUAL LIFE OF THE PARISH

The spiritual life also remains steady, and in some cases, growing. While so many aspects of our lives were put on pause during the pandemic, it is reassuring to look at the numbers and see that our faith community continues to grow.

- **41 students** received their First Holy Communion!
 - Our Religious Ed program has **83 students** in the program this year.
 - And our Parish family continues to grow.
- 143 new parishioners/families** have joined our Parish in the past 2 years!
- Over **220 volunteers** serve in our Liturgical Ministries as Lectors, Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Music Ministers, Church Angels, Ministers of Hospitality, and Ushers.

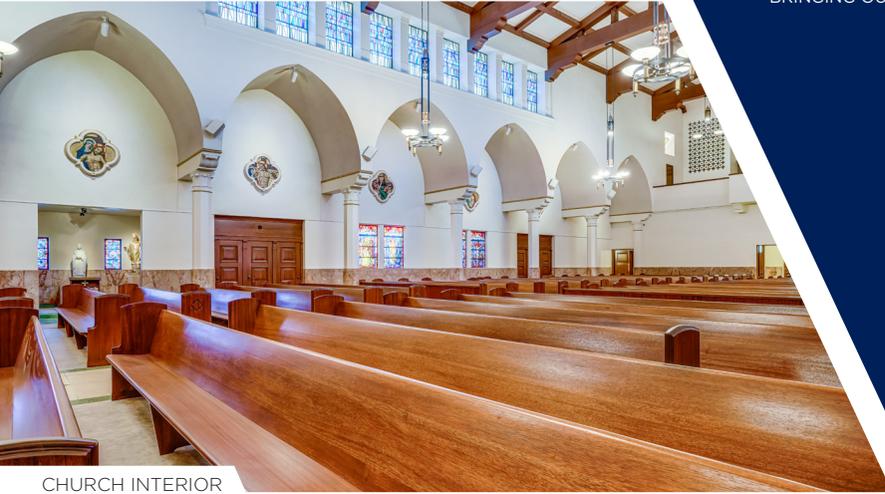
SACRAMENTS IN FY 2020 AND FY 2021



The Renew Capitol Campaign raised **\$3.7 million** in cash donations and pledges. Thanks to the generosity of our parish and community, it has been a consistent state of renewal at Visitation over the past 4 years. Even during the height of the pandemic, we managed to refresh, rebuild, and renew.



BRINGING OUR INNER BEAUTY OUT



CHURCH INTERIOR

COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Daycare center
- Brick repair
- Table refurbishing
- School downstairs hallways and bathrooms
- Church courtyard
- Secured fencing / perimeter
- O’Grady Center
- Refreshed grounds with green space
- Restoration of church interior
- O’Sullivan Hall remodel and upgrades
- Refreshed hallways in Junior High Building
- Junior High yard transformation
- HVAC and upgraded windows in school building 1 (finishing soon)
- Asbestos abatement / new floors
- Painting, landscaping, and many more needed repairs
- Stations of the Cross, Mary’s Garden, Memorial wall



COURTYARD



SECURED CAMPUS / GREENSPACE

RENEW CAMPAIGN TOPLINE FINANCES

TOTAL INCOME pledges + fundraised dollars	\$3,732,097
LOAN parish reserve fund	\$400,000
TOTAL EXPENSES construction + fundraising	\$3,969,616
DIFFERENCE	\$163,380

We continue to RENEW



We have accomplished so much with Renew Visitation in the past 4 years, however there is still more to do, specifically Building 2, lovingly referred to as O'Sullivan Hall. Some of the remaining projects include the entrance, the sign on the building, the kitchen, the bathrooms and HVAC. We want to finally remove that eye-sore of a chimney, clearing space for storage in the O'Sullivan Hall closet. In addition, we need to remodel the bathrooms for Junior High, replace the upper windows and paint the exterior.

As you can see, we are not done yet... Help us CONTINUE TO RENEW!

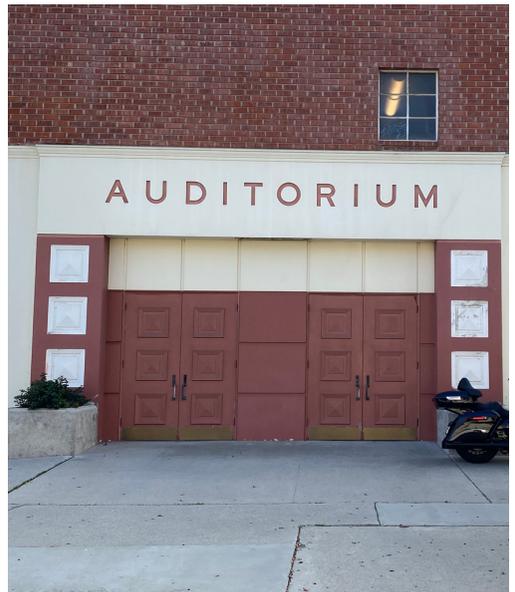
Our goal is to raise \$1 million more in the next year.

How can you help?

- Make a pledge (monthly, quarterly, semi-annually)
- Offer a one-time gift
- Apply for matching funds with your workplace
- Donate stocks
- Spread the word with family and friends
- Pray with us for Mary our Mother to continue to bless and protect us.

DONATE OR MAKE A PLEDGE AT
RenewVis.givesmart.com
OR SCAN THE QR CODE FOR DIRECT ACCESS





THANK YOU

for your support and prayers as we embark on this lofty goal and continue to Renew Visitation. Our goal is to exceed \$1 Million in the next year. But we can not do it alone and need your help to spread the word, donate and pray.

Any questions, suggestions or donations please contact Courtney O'Donoghue, Director of Development for the Church of Visitation.

development497vc@gmail.com



OUR PARISH SCHOOL

Nothing illustrates almost a quarter century of academic excellence than Visitation's ability to be successful during and after such a pivotal time in education. During the past year and a half, Visitation School, along with all other schools, have been met with extreme challenges, obstacles, and potential opportunities. Visitation has met these challenges and opportunities head on and with success! While the pandemic forced schools across the country into distance learning, Visitation continued its commitment toward excellence. Now that we're back in the classroom, we're all hearing about the pandemic's toll on education. Nationally, test scores show progress slowed during this disrupted year. However, bucking the national trend, Visitation's students are continuing to test either on or above grade level. With an emphasis on educating the whole child, we even managed to continue offering our physical education, music, arts, and foreign language programs throughout the entirety of distance learning. A global pandemic was not going to hold us back.

Visitation continues to thrive. Today, enrollment is consistent, with 240 total students. Our student to teacher ratio is 14 to 1. Our many clubs, organizations, and sports programs are up and running. 100% of our graduates are accepted to their first-choice high school. Graduates leave here as confident critical thinkers, proficient in time management and equipped with work habits that help them succeed in high school and beyond.

For more info and for a virtual tour, visit visitationschool.org.

- Principal Chris Watson



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