

Reach Cathedral

December 2022

newsletter



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The State of the Parish

*Please use this return mailer to keep Cathedral forging forward with your generosity.



Pictured: Msgr. Fucinaro visiting Mrs. Garay's class, Fall 2022, Kathryn Mullin



Msgr. Thomas Fucinaro
Pastor

In the beautiful words of the psalmist, *what return can I make for all that the Lord has given to me?* (Ps. 116: 12). Herein lies the great challenge and sometimes vexing paradox of the whole of our spiritual lives. For as long as we make our way through life believing ourselves to be the owners of our gifts we will find ourselves in no little peril, for truly every good gift we have and will ever receive is not the fruit of our hard work or even of our good fortune. Rather, in the truest perspective of reality: all is gift, all is love, and indeed, God IS love. To hold things in proper perspective, our fallen human nature, ever prone to pride, needs to be frequently reminded that love consists in this: *not that we have loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins.* (1 John 4: 10)

The secular culture of 21st century America threatens to erase from the modern memory any vestige of the responsible stewardship which the Lord expects from all of us. After all, truly, what can I claim as my own that the Lord has not, in His customary

audacious manner of gifting, given to me?

For this reason, in all humility, I come before you with an urgent appeal on behalf of the parish. We find ourselves approaching year's end with a budgetary deficit of approximately \$120,000.

In previous years, my predecessors, Msgr. Robert Tucker, Msgr. Joseph Nemec, and Father Justin Wylie, and many parishioners worked hard not only to keep us financially afloat but also work to set in place precise accounting so that in real time our financial situation would be known. Thanks to them, I am able to report to you accurately the state of our parish.

As you will know by following the weekly bulletin our intake of monies from the collection has not managed to keep up with our expenses. Of course, urgent repairs have only worsened our situation, to say nothing of inflation's effect upon those repairs and the increases to costs to heat and air condition the church, the school, and the rectory.

Please know that we are – and I am personally – committed to keeping to a balanced budget and to complete transparency about our financial situation, and this is why I come to you presently with this urgent appeal.

With all confidence in you, I call upon each of you to partner with us generously to share the burden of supporting our parish community. The days are long gone when we might have raised the monies from a generous few or by taking from reserve funds. The fact is, even if this were possible, it would not be the proper thing to do.

In truth, if all of our parishioners were to take up the charge we could easily balance our budget before the end of the year and that **must** be our goal. Hence, in that Spirit, in the Holy Spirit, who unites us all as this portion of the People of God in this our beautiful and growing Cathedral parish, I urge you to reach a bit deeper in providing church support, and if up to now, you have not seen your way to support us, I ask that you prayerfully consider generously giving now, of course, according to your means,

before the end of the year!

Please join me in praying for our parish and particularly for our financial stability:

*Heavenly Father,
You have chosen the parish as the primary means by which you encounter us in our daily lives.
The parish is the assembly in which your Word is proclaimed,
your Eucharist is celebrated, and your people are united in a local community so that they may become the agent of change for the increase of the whole Church.
Make us aware of the many opportunities and responsibilities that are ours as witnesses to you in the world.
Keep us open to our need of your love and fellowship.
May we all join together to serve you in others. Amen.*

Happily I know that we can do this! Indeed, I make bold as to urge everyone to open their hearts and pocketbooks to the Lord and to this parish presently and in the coming weeks! We are asking that you prayerfully consider making a year-end gift to Cathedral of at least \$200, of

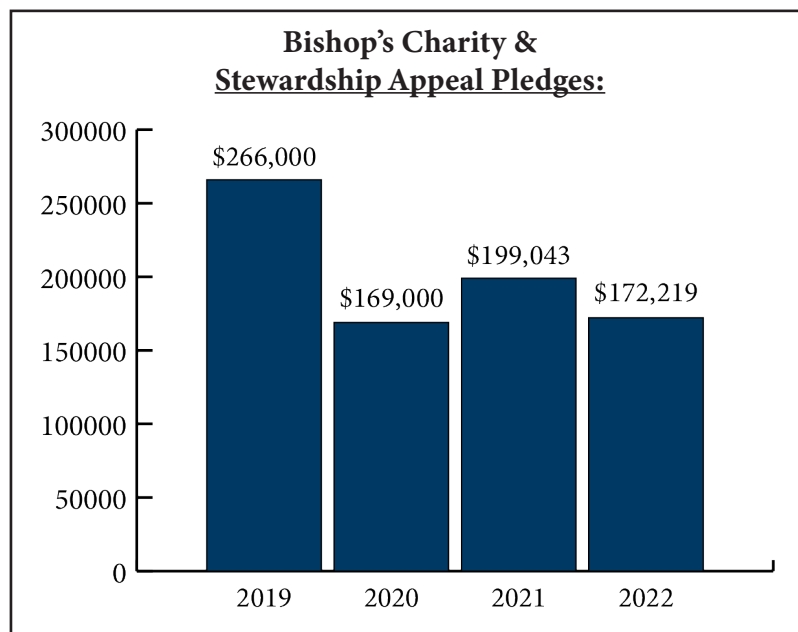
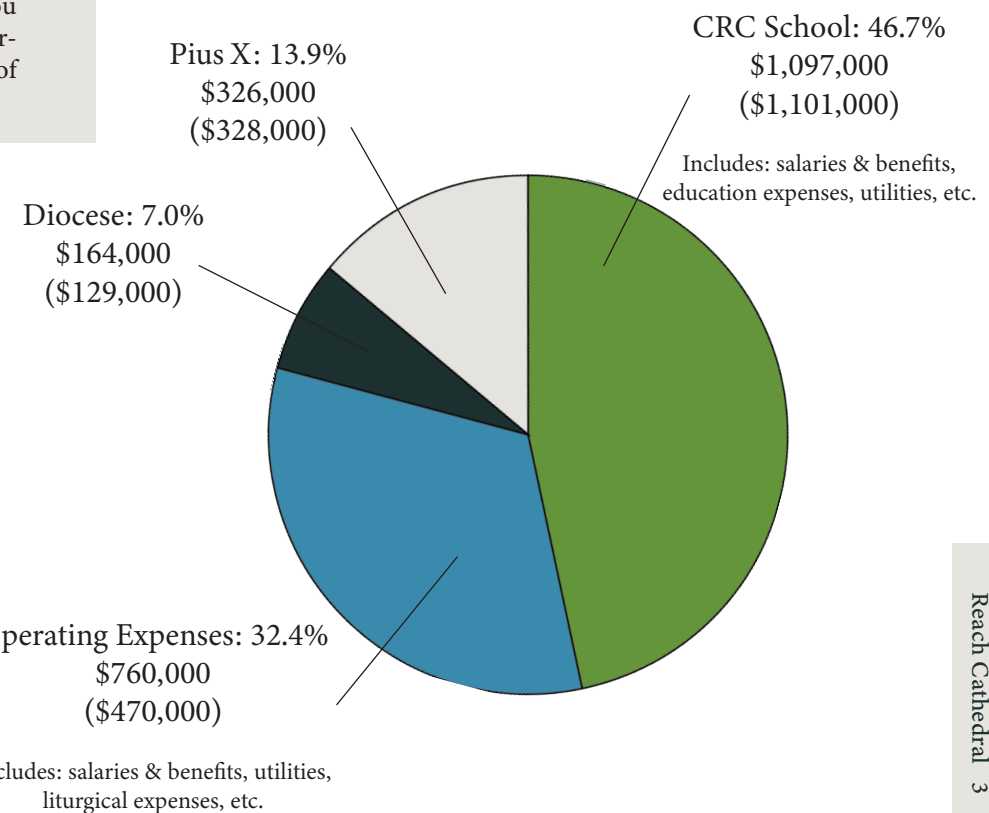
course, according to your means.

Should anyone have questions either about these figures or how they might be able to best support our parish please do not hesitate to reach out to our Director of Stewardship, Jennie Kobza at jkobza@crchrist-parish.org.

On behalf of the priests and our parish staff, warmest best wishes and the promise of our prayers for a fruitful and blessed Advent season!

What does it cost to run Cathedral?

(2021 costs in parentheses)



Tithing Contributions	
July 2021 - June 2022	
(July 2020 - June 2021 in parentheses)	
469 (640)	\$0
287 (157)	\$500 or less
106 (114)	\$500 to \$1,000
330 (300)	\$1,000 to \$5,000
78 (66)	\$5,000+
1270 (1277)	Total Families Tithing: 63% (50%)

6/30/22 Net Loss \$426,000
6/30/21 Net Gain \$129,000*

*Includes \$68,245 from a COVID related grant.

Average Monthly Gift from Parishioners:

\$88.26 in 2022
(\$99.75 in 2021)

*Does not reflect IRA's or gifts of stock.

The Cathedral Dignity Pledge

This 2022-23 school year, Cathedral students are focusing on each of the lines in their dignity pledge. Each Month, students practice skills relating to the individual lines of the pledge. In December they're focusing on patience.



"Patience is staying still and waiting for others to be finished. At school I practice patience when someone asks for help. At home I practice patience with siblings and games." - Gemma, 5th Grade



"A patient person is respectful, waits for directions and is not easily aggravated. At school I practice patience when letting the teacher explain directions without interrupting them. At home I practice patience with my siblings." - Brady, 8th Grade



"A patient person doesn't get angry easily, they take time to let it flow and don't get frustrated when things don't go their way. I practice patience at home with my parents by trying to be understanding." - Adele, 8th Grade

Dignity Pledge

I pledge to...

Be Respectful

Be Positive

Be Honest

Be Grateful

Be Patient

Be Responsible

Be Sainly

Recognize the dignity of all humans

See Christ in others

Be like Christ to others



"During my school counseling classes, I love to reference our Dignity Pledge as an example of our school's social-emotional learning. I love that our Dignity Pledge, written by Jeremy Ekeler, contains the basic foundations of a healthy, holy life. So, when our Principal Angela Miller shared with me her desire to have a year focused on our pledge, I was excited to collaborate. Mrs. Miller was able to arrange for me to have a couple of hours a week to work with students and to create, collect, and share various resources that match with the dignity goal of the month. I am so thankful to the many people who have shared their ideas and pointed me to books, activities, lesson plans, and saints who can inspire and guide our students."

- Ms. Walsh
5th grade teacher



The Abbeys at Cathedral

Miss Johnson Brass
7th grade teacher



1 What are the Abbeys?

Abbeys are teams which students are randomly assigned to when they enter 6th grade at Cathedral. Each Junior High teacher leads an Abbey. Students compete with their Abbey their entire Junior High career (6th-8th grade). If you're familiar with the Hogwarts Houses of Harry Potter, the Abbey's aren't too different.

The Abbeys at Cathedral School are: St. Francis of Assisi (Mrs. Vera), St. Therese of Lisieux (Mrs. Wisdom), St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mrs. Caradori), St. Albert (Mr. Simmons), Pope St. John Paul II (Mr. Laney), and St. Padre Pio (Miss Johnson Brass).

2 What do the Abbeys do throughout the school year?

We celebrate each Abbey's feast day, have competitions each quarter of the school year, and have a party at the end of the year for the top three teams. Students can earn their Abbey points during competitions as well as at the end of each quarter. They can earn points for having clean infraction (behavior) cards and for achieving A or A/B Honor Role.

3 How were the Abbeys started at Cathedral?

A previous Cathedral P.E. teacher, around 2011, shared with the principal a fun "Houses" concept from his old school. Our principal then decided to do a Catholic spin on it with the Saints.

4 What is your current role with the Abbeys?

As the Jr. High Coordinator, I lead the planning and scheduling of Abbey events and help record scores as well as make sure Abbey teams are split fairly (both in # of students and boy/girl ratios). Abbeys, however, are definitely a team effort. Jr. High teachers meet once a quarter and plan out competitions. The administration plays a role in helping with logistics as well. We all see the benefits and joy this tradition gives the kids, so it's well worth the work!

5 Why do you think the Abbeys are beneficial?

I think junior high can be a challenging and intimidating time for kids. The Abbeys help to bring new students into the Cathedral family. They foster community and provide great team-building opportunities. It is so cool to see 8th graders cheering on their 7th and 6th grade Abbey teammates and interacting with them around the school throughout the year. I love getting to know the younger grades through this, since I predominantly teach 7th & 8th. I think getting to interact with your teacher through fun, team-building activities helps build relationships and can help foster a great student/teacher relationship for the future! Throughout my years here at Cathedral, graduating students have told me countless times that some of their favorite moments in Jr. High were memories made through the Abbeys.



Pictured: August Dignity Pledge "Be Respectful" Award winners, Kathryn Mullin

Rene' and Candy Ojeda

"God took a young boy from Cuba and brought him all the way to Lincoln, NE to meet his future wife. Yes, this is where it began nearly 57 years ago when we became high school sweethearts."

Married on April 20, 1968 at St. Mary's in Lincoln, Rene' and Candy Ojeda are the proud parents of three children, Liesa, Tony, and Eric; as well as the proud grandparents of 10 grandchildren and two bonus grandchildren. All three of their children attended Cathedral school many years ago and then all graduated from Pius X High School.

Candy, a convert at the age of 17, shared, "I always believed Mary to be the Mother of God and very holy, but never quite got all about Mary until we made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in October of 2009. Then being in the Church of Dormition really brought me so much closer to Mary when I began to cry at the statue of Mary sleeping. It was very overwhelming for me."

Rene' is a cradle Catholic and as a little boy he injured the retina in his eye. His mother prayed for the intercession of St. Lucy and his eye was healed. Candy expressed that "to this day, Rene' remains faithful to St. Lucy and always wears her medal around his neck. She has been with him since he was a boy in Cuba."

Rene' and Candy have been parishioners at Cathedral for the past 45 years. Their activeness in the parish has slowed over the years, but they've each continued their involvement in the Parish Council of Catholic Women (PCCW) and the Knights of Columbus while both also substitute for perpetual adoration. In years past, Rene' served

with the boy scouts, was an active Acolyte and Extraordinary Minister, and more. From 2002-2014, Candy was employed as one of the church secretaries while Msgr. Robert Tucker was the Pastor. She volunteered as the parish reporter for the Southern Nebraska Register for 21 years and was a first grade CCD teacher in the late 70's and early 80's. Additionally, they both have served extensively as ushers, volunteered with the fish fries, and were on the RCIA team. Sprinkled between all of these, they've given their time to many fundraisers, parish picnics, and other activities over the years.

There have been three main reasons for their extensive involvement at Cathedral. First, it's been a great way to continue learning about the Faith. Second, it's helped others to get involved. Lastly, it's helped the parish to be more like a family for them.

The Ojeda's involvement has even extended to their children. Their children started volunteering alongside them from a young age. As president of the Altar Society Board in the 1988-89 fiscal year, Candy was present at all parish functions sponsored by the Altar Society. As a result, their three kids were there as well. Then, with the boys being boy scouts they were at all of those functions with their Dad too.

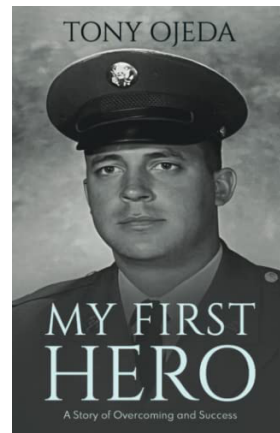
Now as adults, their children have taught their own kids the importance of volunteering at the parish. "It starts in the home," the Ojedas shared.

"We cannot say enough how important it is to be involved in your parish. First and foremost, you are serving God and helping to serve your pastor and your parish. Without volunteers the church would not be able to operate fully. If you have not been approached by someone to join something, we are sorry. You are being asked now. If you are a long-time parishioner of Cathedral or brand new and you are not involved in the parish, we want you to step up."

Throughout the years, the Ojedas have been happy to be with their Cathedral family, but their personal family is growing by leaps and bounds. They attend the sporting events of their grandchildren including baseball, football, basketball, soccer, and dance recitals. With all of their children in Lincoln, they love their large family gatherings and are especially thankful for that.



Pictured from far left, clockwise: Daughter Liesa's family, son Tony's family at granddaughter's wedding, Candy & Rene' Ojeda, son Eric's family, son Tony's family at grandson's wedding.



The Story of Rene' Ojeda

Imagine being born into a well-to-do family, with plenty of land and property, to have it all taken away 12 years after you were born. This is exactly what happened to Rene' Ojeda Jr's family in Cuba when Fidel Castro took over the government in the Revolution.

Now imagine the very difficult decision by Rene's parents to send him and his younger brother to the United States through Operation Pedro Pan when they were just 14 and 12 years old. They thought it would be temporary, maybe a few months, but now 60 years later Rene's story is told by his son, Tony Ojeda.

Rene' is Tony's first hero!



Written by parishioner, Tony Ojeda (pictured right), copies of *My First Hero* can be found in the Cathedral parish bookstore.

Sponsor SOAR

The 25th anniversary of SOAR, Cathedral's auction and dinner event, is February 4, 2023! Help Cathedral School reach their goal of replacing leaking skylights and re-carpeting classrooms. Over 350 people participate in this event. Let's soar together to make it a success!

Gold Sponsor: \$2,000

Help make the gym look like the Wild West!

- Large event signage for sponsoring event decorations
- 5'x5' banner with company name displayed in gym for 1 year (\$750 value)
- Logo on t-shirts, online bidding site, social media, flyers and announcements
- 2 tickets to the event + 2 auction t-shirts

Silver Sponsor: \$1,000

- Event signage under silver category
- Logo on t-shirts, online bidding site, social media, flyers and announcements
- 2 tickets to the event + 2 auction t-shirts

Bronze Sponsor: \$500

- Event signage under bronze category
- Company name displayed on bidding site, social media and flyers
- Company name on auction t-shirts

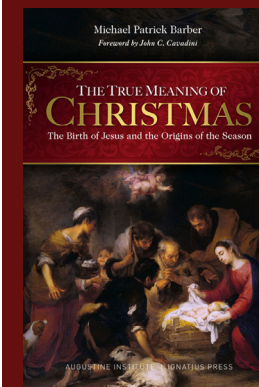


Contact Claire Brakenhoff at: clairebrakenhoff@gmail.com or (402) 304-0446

Advent and Christmas Resources



A Free Book



With chapters such as "Ancient Jewish Hopes for a Messiah," "Why a Virgin Mother," and "How December 25 Became Christmas," *The True Meaning of Christmas*, written by Michael Patrick Barber, is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about Christmas while drawing closer to the Lord this Advent.

Copies of the book can be picked up in the vestibule in early Advent.

FORMED

Receive daily Advent and Christmas meditations in your email inbox from Dr. Tim Gray via Formed! Sign up for free using this QR code:



CATHEDRAL OF THE RISEN CHRIST

3500 Sheridan Blvd
Lincoln, NE 68506



Immaculate Conception Mass Times

*December 7th: 5pm Vigil,
December 8th: 6:30am, 8:15am, 12pm Noon,
& 5pm*

Christmas Mass Times

*Christmas Eve - 4pm children's Mass, 6pm
Christmas Day - Midnight (Bishop Conley),
6am, 7:30am, 9am, 11am*

*Please refer to the bulletin for the Christmas confession schedule.

Saturday, November 26 - Sunday, December 11

Cathedral Giving Tree
Cathedral Church Vestibule

Saturday, December 3, 9am-5pm

PCCW Bake Sale
Rector's Hall

Monday, December 5, 6:30pm

JH Choir Christmas Concert
Cathedral Church

Thursday, December 8, Immaculate Conception

No School at Cathedral
Parish Office Closed

Monday, December 12, 6:30pm

K-4 Christmas Concert
Cathedral Church

Tuesday, December 13, 7:30pm

Cathedral Advent Community Holy Hour
Cathedral Church



Pictured: September Dignity Pledge "Be Positive" Award winners (dressed up for Book Character Day), Kathryn Mullin

Sunday, December 18, 9am Mass

Blessing of the baby Jesus
Cathedral Church

Sunday, December 18, After the 9 & 11am Masses

Fellowship Sunday: Coffee & Donuts
Rector's Hall

Thursday, December 22 - Tuesday, January 3

No School at Cathedral

Friday, December 23 & Monday, December 26

Parish Office Closed

December 2022 Dates & Events

Giving Tree

- The tags will be for CSS Adopt a Family (scrip gift cards), Cathedral School Families (scrip gift cards), and Cathedral Homebound (Mass intentions).
- Tags will be in the vestibule beginning the weekend of November 26-27.
- All tags must be returned in the collection at Mass or to the parish office by noon on Sunday, December 11.

