

**From April 6/7 Masses**  
**Presented by Vince Zaprzal**  
**Director of Parish Ministries, Religious Education & Facilities**

Good Morning/Afternoon,

Operating a campus the size of Ascension of Our Lord is no small task. With a multitude of space comes recurring electricity, water, gas, phone, trash, cleaning, technology bills, as well as ministerial costs for our different ministries and liturgical supplies.

We also have maintenance expenses to make sure we are staying on top of any small (or not-so-small) repairs. There is the cost of snow removal in the winter and the upkeep of the grounds in the spring and the summer. While our Religious Education Program charges tuition, it does not cover the entire cost of operating our program. All of this – along with the salaries and benefits for our staff – are to be covered by the weekly offerings we receive from our parishioners and those who attend our parish. We are so grateful for those who understand what it takes to run a parish successfully and who have made Ascension of Our Lord a priority in their lives. Because of your continued generosity each week many adult education programs are offered at no cost to those who attend.

During this past week, a letter was sent by Father Jose launching our capital campaign called Revitalize and Rejoice. While some of our neighboring parishes are looking where they can cut, we are looking ahead to the bright future of this parish community.

Some would ask, why do we need a capital campaign? While the weekly giving is generous, it is not sufficient for the larger-scale projects like those listed in our **Revitalize and Rejoice** campaign. Every capital endeavor requires contributions above and beyond our regular offering. And these improvements have a direct benefit to the future of our parish.

Some of you in this very church were founding members some 50+ years ago when Masses were held at Montini High School until the church, rectory, and offices were built during Father Duffy's pastorate.

Many of you were part of this parish community when Father Bill Cullen laid the groundwork for the expansion of our campus as to what we refer to now as Corpus Christi Hall, the Marian Room, the Founder's Foyer, our current parish offices, as well as our education wing of classrooms. What an exciting time for Father Damien Graziano and Father Bill Donnelly to be a part of our growing parish family for some 18 years.

Now that approximately 25 years have gone by since the expansion of our campus, it is time to Revitalize what we have. Just as many items in own homes need to be replaced over time, our parish campus is no exception to that.

This past fall, you may have read in my bulletin page about some projects that needed to take place. The feedback from that was very positive that we felt that this was the right time to launch a larger capital campaign.

- Heating and air conditioning systems are now about 27 years old. We have nine (9) rooftop units that provide both heat and cooling, and these are no longer cost-effective to repair. In fact, two of the units are currently not working. It's time to replace all nine units, and we have received estimates that this project will cost around \$110,000.
- Security has become more important for churches around the world, and we are no exception. We will replace our surveillance cameras with a new system and will add electronic locks to several doors in our buildings. This will cost about \$22,000.
- Carpeting wears out, so it's time to replace the green carpeting in the sanctuary and narthex of the Church.
- Wallpaper throughout our facilities is worn and needs repair or replacement.
- We have a vintage Chickering grand piano, built in the 1880s and donated to our Parish many years ago when Father Bill Cullen was pastor. This piano has been moved from Corpus Christi Hall into our Church so that it can enhance our worship through our music ministry. In order for it to last for many more years it needs restoration, costing about \$10,000, far less than the cost of a new grand piano.

We are currently looking at projects costing approximately \$187,000. As you consider your level of support to ***Revitalize and Rejoice***, please think about what the Ascension of our Lord Parish community means to you.

Think about the founders of this parish who sacrificed to give us the beautiful facilities we enjoy today. These buildings are entrusted to our care, and we want to secure them to the best of our ability.

For those that receive envelope packets in the mail, please note that the Improvement Fund envelope that is included. That envelope is specific to Revitalize and Rejoice. Donations are also accepted online through the We-Share Giving Link on our parish website. One-time donations as well as recurring donations may be setup through that program. Extra envelopes will be made available in the Narthex as well in the parish office. It is important that donations to Revitalize and Rejoice be specified for proper record keeping.

This is also a wonderful time to revitalize our parish liturgical ministries. This has no financial cost to you—just of your time. We are in need of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Readers, and Music Ministers to assist at our Masses each weekend. Many will say that “I’m not worthy enough to do that.” My response is “Who is!”. You are needed! All necessary and on-going training for these ministries will be provided. A requirement of a love of our church and Jesus is all that is needed. Our goal with enough volunteers will be to add the option of receiving Jesus’ Precious Blood at our Masses. Again, this can only happen with your help and belief in our parish.

This is truly an exciting time for our parish community! To Revitalize today, will allow us to Rejoice tomorrow and for years to come.