

From the Pastor's Desk:

Today we begin Advent and also a new liturgical year. As we look forward to the coming of Jesus to us at Christmas we can reflect on this as a time of year leading to new beginnings. As Advent is a quiet time helping us to prepare for Jesus (maybe in a new way to each of us), this time also is a quiet one in the growth of our parish community. Many seeds that have been planted are growing. I have been writing less about the development of ministries, but they are still progressing bit by bit. It really is like we planted seeds and they are slowly growing - it is a time of advent waiting for these things to become fully bloomed.

We continue to work towards greater organization of financial matters. Jeff Gallant and I have been meeting in order to insure correct recording of all transactions and to modify the budget according to this. The revised budget will then be brought to the Finance Council for approval. We are now using tamper-evident bags to transport the collection. There has been no indication of past tampering, but this was suggested as a more secure way to hold collections till counted. We are also working to bring on new office staff to fill the current gaps.

Thanks to those who spoke to me about the proposed sale of the St. Joseph Church and property. I will be bringing the suggestions to Pastoral Council to see what can be implemented. With the generous help of Paul LeBlanc we are restoring the chapel to the right of the altar in Holy Rosary. This chapel was left in disrepair when the tabernacle was moved to its current location. The plan is to move the statue of St. Joseph to this space creating a lasting remembrance of the patron of that historical parish of Gardner (matching the chapel of the Sacred Heart on the left of the altar which commemorates that historical parish).

You will notice the new covers for our missalettes. These were provided due to a generous donation in memory of Camille Bergeron by his wife and daughter. Many thanks to the crew of individuals who spent the time inserting the missalettes into the covers and distributing them in the church.

A new church year, a new time to grow. As we continue to pull together as a unified parish in Gardner (four historical parishes now one new parish) we will continue to respond to the call of the Lord. Happy New Year to you all.

Peace and Blessings,

Fr. Steve