



Saint Nicholas Church
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Dec. 29, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As the old year comes to a close and a new one begins, it is once again time to renew our pledge to the One Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. We invite you to pledge your support to St. Nicholas. Again this year, it is important to pledge your support because, while we were able to finally complete the sewer line repair we so desperately needed, we still have several deferred maintenance items that have become critical. We need an accurate assessment of how much money we can expect in order to:

- resurface the parking lot
- repair leak in the dome and re-gild it
- get rid of the termites infesting the church (10 colonies!)

For 2016, we only had 32 pledging families, but according to Fr Basil, there are about 60 who "attend, confess and support the church." For those who have done so, thank you, and for you who have not, please take the time to formally pledge your support. This way, you can have a say in how the church spends its money. With the abolition of the "Fair Share" assessment, the new tax structure supports more people becoming formal, active members of their local church.

Even if you do not complete the form by January 29th, you can still show up prior to the meeting and enroll at the last minute. Our church bylaws require parishioners to annually make a declaration of intent to be an official member of the church. Only formal members may vote in general church meetings, for council members, sit on the council, and be elected to diocesan councils.

Our small church always needs the talents and donations of all, every year, and especially now while we face some substantial overdue maintenance. This is your opportunity to be part of the going forward process. We have been so blessed this year to have friends and parishioners who gave their time and labor to prepare the grounds for the festival, build a new stage, as well as helping with the cleaning, yard work and plumbing problems.

We encourage you to fill out your pledge forms completely, and turn them in as soon as possible. I need them to enter them into the proposed 2017 budget that we will discuss at the Budget Meeting, currently scheduled for January 22, 2017. The more accurate our figures are, the better we will be able to discuss plans for the following year. Right now, our budget expenses, without the deferred maintenance are estimated to be about \$147,000.

Thank you all for your continued support, through your donations of labor, money, and goods to help our church continue to be a haven for us and a beacon to the community.

Warmest wishes,

Aaron Labrecque

Aaron Labrecque
Treasurer