



State of the Parish - October 2024

Dear St. Rose of Lima Parish Family,

I am so happy that we are able to walk through the front doors of our Church! I am very grateful to each one of you for your patience during the time of this double whammy of construction.

For three years prior to my arrival, Mike Roberts and a team of dedicated parishioners met for countless hours to work and re-work the steps. We are grateful to John Buchholtz, an architect who donated his time and talent with at least eighteen renderings of our steps. For the two years that I have been here, Mike continued to meet with his team. After five years of planning, meetings for hours and discussions, our steps are finished!

I want to remind everyone that the solar array did not cost our parish family any money, just patience. The Step project began two years before my arrival and through the tremendous generosity of members of our family is coming to completion. All of us have contributed to being patient in this process.

I am also very grateful to all who helped share their time, talent and treasure with our greater St. Rose of Lima family. Every public event we gather for, whether it is to celebrate Mass, a Baptism, concert, faith formation event, and the list goes on, it takes a lot of behind the scenes work to make it happen. We, as a family, have been the beneficiary of the time people put into such events and the sharing of their talents to execute the events.

I am also very grateful for the treasure that so many of you share with our family to keep our home running and our activities funded. To replace the front steps of your family home would cost between \$5,000 and \$10,000 as compared to replacing the front steps of our St. Rose of Lima family home (the Church) of a ½ million dollars.

This brings me to our weekly collection. Ten years ago, we would collect between \$17,000 and \$18,000 per week, though we needed approximately \$22,000 per week. If we look at a weekly collection of \$17,000, we were deficit spending by \$5,000 per week which translates to \$260,000 deficit spending per year. That was ten years ago!

Today, we average between \$16,000 and \$17,000 per week, though we need approximately \$25,000 per week. If we look at \$16,000 per week income, we are deficit spending by \$9,000 per week or \$468,000 per year deficit spending.

This deficit spending has been going on for at least the last ten years and was made up based on the Bequests that we received. So much did the Church rely on Bequests that it was put into the budget as income. The problem with bequests is that they do not replace themselves nor should be count on people going home to God to leave us something. I must let you know that our entire reserves consist of \$100,000. Given the current trend, we are in trouble. Many of us have become comfortable with our regular giving and I am grateful for what each of you financially contribute. With that being said, water bills have gone up, JCP&L has gone up, the cost of food, salaries, etc. have all gone up. I must ask if you would prayerfully discern giving our family a raise. If you have been giving the same amount for the last five years or more, I ask that you consider a raise that could sustain us for the next three years. If we can increase our offerings, then we can ask for a raise every three years.

Thank you for your consideration,

Fr. Larry