

DECEMBER 2009

Sacred Heart

Catholic Church

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A Letter From Our Pastor

Accepting God's Gift with Joy and Wonder

Dear Parishioners,

Have you ever noticed how many of our Christmas hymns include the theme of **joy**? Again and again, we sing that the birth of Jesus brings us joy. The familiar songs fill our minds as we celebrate the feast. "O come, all ye faithful, *joyful* and triumphant," then on to "Good Christian men, *rejoice*," and next to "Hark! The herald angels sing... *Joyful*, all you nations, rise," and finally and above all, "*Joy* to the world! The Lord is come." The Church's liturgy summons the whole world to join in worship: "Let the Earth ring out with *joy* for you have come."

Not only joy, but also **wonder** is a hallmark of Christmas. Wonder – amazement at the news that a baby born in a stable in Bethlehem is the Christ, Emmanuel, God-is-with-us – was a natural reaction for those who heard the shepherds' report that a band of angels had appeared to them. "All who heard it were amazed by what had been told them by the shepherds," St. Luke tells us (2:18). Can you imagine how much more astonishment the shepherds had experienced when they saw and heard the angels? And what Mary and Joseph must have felt when they thought about what the future would hold for themselves and this newborn baby?

We can share that same wonder when we contemplate the infant Jesus in a manger scene; when we think of how the shepherds must have reacted when their quiet night under the stars with their flocks of sheep was interrupted by a band of singing angels; what

JOY

Continued on back cover



2009 Sacred Heart Ministry Report

It is with gratitude that we present our Third Annual Parish Ministry Report. The following pages highlight the accomplishments of the past year and the goals for the year ahead for each Parish Life Team. This report also contains our year-end financial summary data. The reason that our parish exists is to be engaged in ministry, which means to serve others as Disciples of Jesus Christ. As we journey forward in faith together, we need to be transparent and accountable to one another for our time, talent and treasure.



Hospitality Team

2009-10 Membership: Bob Maconochie, Sue, Maconochie, Claire Finigan, Alberta Luchina, Todd Miller, Christine Gaffney

2009 Accomplishments *(accomplishments are checked)*

- ✓ Expand Hospitality team by 3 new members.
- Create Hospitality Team By-Laws
- ✓ Organize the Hospitality sub teams: Events, Greeters, Coffee and...
- Invite formation class parents into supporting Coffee and...setup/cleanup

- ✓ Continue Chicken BBQ/Mothers Day Brunch/Italian Dinner Night/Christmas Fair to build community and raise funds for parish expenses.

2010 Goals

- Annual review of parish welcome packet
- Quarterly Reception to welcome new families/individuals
- Introduce new families/individuals in the bulletin and /or newsletter

Stewardship Team

2009-10 Membership: Matt Smith, Chet Sanuik, Jan Sanuik, Ed Pirela, Terri Friesma, Guy Crepeau, Carolyn Chaplin, Nino Gentile

2009 Accomplishments *(accomplishments are checked)*

- ✓ Conduct a Parish Survey
- Study the Catholic's Bishops' pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*
- ✓ Expand membership of the Stewardship team by 3 new members.
- ✓ Implement the Stewardship spirituality in collaboration with parish leadership
- ✓ Increase communication with all registered parishioners through monthly newsletters

- ✓ Conduct Parish Leadership Retreat
- ✓ Conduct Ministry in Motion Fair
- ✓ Conduct Annual Stewardship Renewal

2010 Goals

- Sharing Leadership roles for stewardship renewal.
- Reach out to all parishioners who don't respond to annual renewal



2009 Sacred Heart Ministry Report *continued from page 2*

Justice and Service Team

2008-09 Membership: Marty Meyer, Peter Gibson, Lisa Alberto, Phil O'Connell, Dianne Ward, Chris Beggs

2009 Accomplishments *(accomplishments are checked)*

- Provide opportunities for advocacy through collaboration with such groups as Pax Christi USA, the Center for Concern, and Amnesty International.
- ✓ Expand membership of the Justice and Service team by 3 new members.
- Explore JustFaith as a study guide to expand our effort to advocate for justice.
- ✓ Continue to support existing charitable ministries

2010 Goals

- Add Dismas House as a supported ministry
- Continue to expand membership of Justice and Service team.
- Add two youth representatives
- Explore and Implement Stephen Ministry

Formation Team

2009-10 Membership: Mary Wilson, Joe Sperino, Donna Rajcula, Susan Beckvold, Linda Caulkins, Karen Barrett, Judy Soares, Eric Miller, Gina Gonzalez

2009 Accomplishments *(accomplishments are checked)*

- ✓ Expand Confirmation program to 2 years.
- Increase ministry participation by Post-Confirmation candidates
- ✓ Form Men's prayer group
- ✓ Expand Formation Team by 3 new members
- ✓ Explore retreat options for Women

2010 Goals

- Increase parental awareness of content of weekly formation classes.
- Increase ministry participation by Post-Confirmation candidates.
- Expand the role of teens in Kidz Chapel.
- Offer women's retreat in Spring 2010.





2009 Sacred Heart Ministry Report *continued from page 3*

Worship Team

2009-10 Membership: Annemarie Smith, Karen Martin, Marybeth Hockenbury, Marie Chabot, Kelley Barrett, Emily Barrett, Cheryl Miller

2009 Accomplishments *(accomplishments are checked)*

- Reassess need for seasonal planning teams
- Implement an evaluation system to regularly obtain feedback from people in the pews.
- ✓ Expand the Worship Team with 3 new members
- ✓ Hire a new music coordinator
- ✓ Enhance Liturgical Environment with dynamic visuals focusing on formation and liturgical themes.

2010 Goals

- Liturgical training for liturgical ministers and sacramental candidates participating in liturgies
- Develop and Implement an evaluation system to regularly obtain feedback from parishioners.
- Educate congregation regarding reverence and Mass length
- Re-assess Mass times based on the survey
- Introduce new and different music throughout liturgical year

Finance Team

2008-09 Membership: Tony Garramone, Ed Holland, Jean Vendetti, Larry Bonetti, Ken Konicki, Romana Germagian, Kay Ghelli

2009 Accomplishments *(accomplishments are checked)*

- Develop a long range (5 year) financial plan for the parish including anticipated capital programs and expenses.
- Install set back thermostat system to reduce cost of heating the church
- ✓ Install electronic heating system controls to improve the efficiency of the heating and cooling systems.
- Automate the financial reporting system so that bookkeeping and reporting will take less time, be more accurate and sustainable.
- ✓ Implement a comprehensive format for monthly and annual financial reporting to the parish
- ✓ Complete the sale of house and other assets from Carron / Hammond estate
- ✓ Paint trim on the church, install new signage and awnings

2010 Goals

- Develop a long range (5 year) financial plan for the parish including anticipated capital programs and expenses.
- Install set back thermostat system to reduce cost of heating the church
- Recruit 2 new finance team members to ensure new thinking and sustainability of the ministry
- Increase bulletin advertisement income by at least 25% over 2008.
- Conduct a systematic review of expenses to reduce/negotiate better rates where possible

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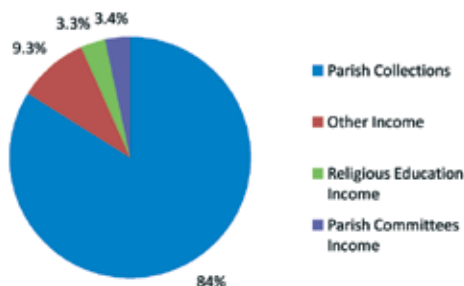


Sacred Heart Hopedale Year End 2009 Financial Summary

Fiscal Year 2009 (September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009)

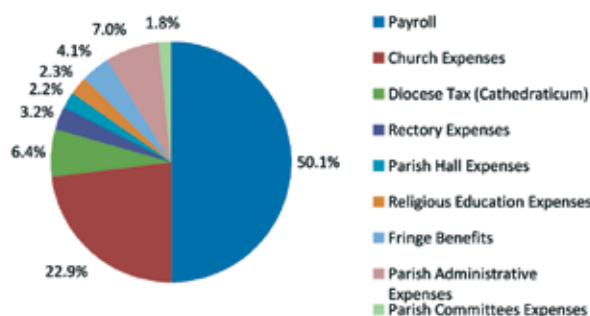
Operating Income

Parish Collections (see detailed breakout below)	\$253,603	84.0%
Other Income	\$28,044	9.3%
Religious Education Income	\$10,095	3.3%
Parish Committees Income	\$10,250	3.4%
Total Income	\$301,992	100.0%



Operating Expenses

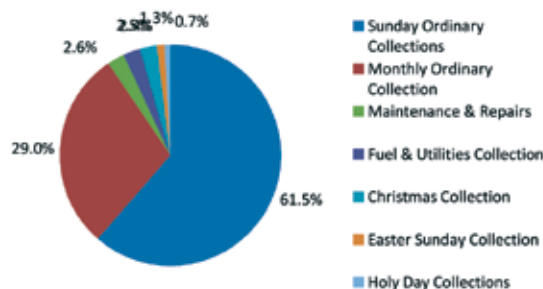
Payroll	\$159,603	50.1%
Church Expenses (see detailed breakout below)	\$72,844	22.9%
Diocese Tax (Cathedraticum)	\$20,281	6.4%
Rectory Expenses	\$10,240	3.2%
Parish Hall Expenses	\$7,093	2.2%
Religious Education Expenses	\$7,468	2.3%
Fringe Benefits	\$12,997	4.1%
Parish Administrative Expenses	\$22,427	7.0%
Parish Committees Expenses	\$5,617	1.8%
Total Expenses	\$318,570	100.0%



Net Operating Surplus / (Deficit) **-\$16,579**

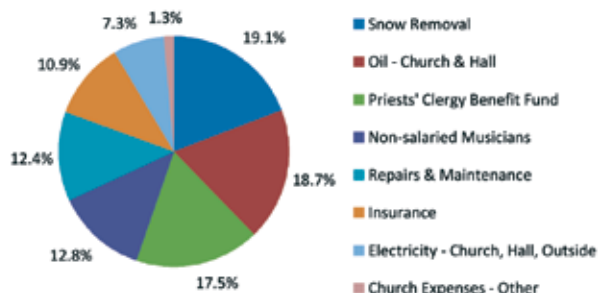
Parish Collections

Sunday Ordinary Collections	\$155,909.76	61.5%
Monthly Ordinary Collection	\$73,550.14	29.0%
Maintenance & Repairs	\$6,484.00	2.6%
Fuel & Utilities Collection	\$6,365.00	2.5%
Christmas Collection	\$6,076.00	2.4%
Easter Sunday Collection	\$3,319.00	1.3%
Holy Day Collections	\$1,899.00	0.7%
Total Parish Collections	\$253,602.90	100.0%



Church Expenses

Snow Removal	\$13,878.83	19.1%
Oil - Church & Hall	\$13,600.00	18.7%
Priests' Clergy Benefit Fund	\$12,782.00	17.5%
Non-salaried Musicians	\$9,300.00	12.8%
Repairs & Maintenance	\$9,048.77	12.4%
Insurance	\$7,966.32	10.9%
Electricity - Church, Hall, Outside Lights	\$5,308.56	7.3%
Church Expenses - Other	\$959.52	1.3%
Total Church Expenses	\$72,844.00	100.0%



Parish Reserve Fund

Beginning Balance (Sept 1 2008)	\$148,207.37
Carron/Hammond Estate	\$208,350.75
Interest Income	\$8,271.09
Allocated Donation Building Fund	\$10,000.00
Investment in Stewardship	(\$53,230.00)
Capital Expenditures	(\$21,401.50)
Operating Expenses	(\$15,713.00)
Ending Balance (August 31, 2009)	\$284,484.71

Directed Donations

(Donations made for specific causes - not part of the parish's operating budget)

Diocesan Collections	\$4,782.00
St. Vincent De Paul	\$3,205.75
Scholarship Fund	\$1,200.00
Walk the Walk	\$435.00
Haiti Mission	\$19,381.00
Partners in Charity	\$46,748.00
Total Directed Donations	\$75,751.75

Notes to Financials:

- 1) Operating Income Increased by \$9,614 over 2008
- 2) Expenses reduced by about \$12,679 over 2008
- 3) Deficit reduced by about \$22,000 over 2008



Begin the Journey Home for Christmas

Christ was born the son of a poor carpenter. Accidental? Not a chance. His birth was the culmination of salvation history, as it profoundly revealed the glory of God. Infinite power and wisdom took the “form of a slave, coming in human likeness,” not as a warrior, but a poor and vulnerable babe. Nothing about God’s entrance into humanity was accidental.

Every aspect of Christ’s birth, from the three kings to the swaddling clothes, carries meaning. The proclamation of the angel, therefore, is also important: “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.” This message, meant to be for “all the people,” was announced to a group of shepherds in a field out in the middle of nowhere. Accidental? Not a chance.

The shepherds, who received a personal invitation to greet Christ at the manger, reveal that God’s love extends beyond boundaries of distance and transcends social classes.

Unlike persons of this world, who yearn to gain recognition with those of influence, wealth, or beauty, Christ cries out to the lowly in society, to the shepherds in the distance. He reaches out in love, desiring a relationship with every single person, no matter his or her status. This is the “good news of great joy for all people”; Christ was born for us all.

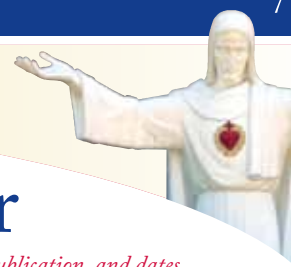
Christmas is the perfect time for distant shepherds to begin the journey home. The angel’s greeting extends to all those who feel estranged from the Church or numb to God’s love. Those who have fallen away from the Faith can be comforted by these words: “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.”

Be not afraid. The Christ child awaits your arrival. Begin the journey back to Christ by drawing near to His body: the Church. Through prayer and the sacraments, you will discover the great joy that accompanies a relationship with God. Take a moment to ask the Lord to bring peace to your heart and guide you in love towards Him. Please join our parish family for the final preparations of Advent, as well as the Christmas Eve and Christmas day Masses.

You have read this entire article and have received a personal invitation to begin the journey. Accidental? Not a chance.



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December 2009 Calendar

Please see page eight of the newsletter for daily and weekly Mass times. This calendar is compiled a month before publication, and dates and times of events may have changed. Please confirm with the parish office, or check our Web site.

Tuesday, December 01, 2009

No Cub Scout Den Meeting

Wednesday, December 02, 2009

Commitment Card Deadline

9:30 AM Mom to Mom in the Parish Hall

Thursday, December 03, 2009

9:00 AM-3:30 PM Thrift Shop Open

Friday, December 04, 2009

9:00 AM First Friday Communion Service
with Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament

12:00 PM Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, December 05, 2009

8:30 AM AA in the Parish Hall

3:00 PM First Reconciliation Celebration in
the Church

Sunday, December 06, 2009

Second Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word in
the Parish Hall Conference Room

9:40 AM Coffee and Reflection in the Parish Hall

9:40 AM Faith Formation Classes (Topic –*The
Law of Commitment*)

10:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word in
the Parish Hall Conference Room

3:00 PM Confirmation Prep Session 3 in the
Parish Hall

Monday, December 07, 2009

6:00 PM Daisy Troop 71010 in Room 2

7:30 PM Vigil Mass for the Feast of the
Immaculate Conception in the
Church

Tuesday, December 08, 2009

*Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*

9:00 AM Holy Day Mass in the Church

10:30 AM Communion Service at Draper Place

3:15 PM Cub Scout Den Meeting in the
Parish Hall

Wednesday, December 09, 2009

9:30 AM Mom to Mom in the Parish Hall

10:30 AM Mass at Continuing Care

Thursday, December 10, 2009

9:00 AM-3:30 PM Thrift Shop Open

11:30 AM Senior Lunch Club in the Parish Hall

7:00 PM Men's Prayer Group in the Parish House

7:30 PM Cub Scout Leader Meeting in the
Parish Hall

Saturday, December 12, 2009

8:30 AM AA in the Parish Hall

3:00 PM First Reconciliation Celebration in
the Church

12:00 PM Hall Rental

Sunday, December 13, 2009

Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word in
the Parish Hall Conference Room

9:40 AM Coffee and Reflection in the Parish
Hall

9:40 AM Faith Formation Classes (Topic –*The
Law of Self-Control*)

10:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word in
the Parish Hall Conference Room

12:00 PM Advent Healing Service in the Church

Monday, December 14, 2009

7:00 PM Cub Scout Pack Meeting in the
Parish Hall

Tuesday, December 15, 2009

5:00 PM Mustard Seed

Wednesday, December 16, 2009

9:30 AM Mom to Mom in the Parish Hall

7:00 PM Baptismal Prep in the Parish House

Thursday, December 17, 2009

9:00 AM-3:30 PM Thrift Shop Open

Saturday, December 19, 2009

8:30 AM AA in the Parish Hall

Sunday, December 20, 2009

Fourth Sunday of Advent

No Coffee and Reflection

No Faith Formation Classes

8:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word in
the Parish Hall Conference Room

9:30 AM Men's Pre-Retreat Communion
Breakfast in the Parish Hall

10:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word in
the Parish Hall Conference Room

Monday, December 21, 2009

7:30 PM O Antiphons with Reconciliation in
the Church

Tuesday, December 22, 2009

3:15 PM Cub Scout Den Meeting in the
Parish Hall

Wednesday, December 23, 2009

No Mom to Mom

Thursday, December 24, 2009

Vigil of Christmas

Office Closed at Noon

Thrift Shop Closed

4:00 PM Christmas Vigil Mass

10:00 PM Midnight Mass

Friday, December 25, 2009

The Nativity of the Lord (Christmas)

Office Closed

10:00 AM Christmas Day Mass

Saturday, December 26, 2009

8:30 AM AA in the Parish Hall

Sunday, December 27, 2009

Feast of the Holy Family

No Coffee and Reflection

No Faith Formation Classes

8:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word in
the Parish Hall Conference Room

10:30 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word in
the Parish Hall Conference Room

Monday, December 28, 2009

7:30 PM PPT Meeting in the Parish House

Tuesday, December 29, 2009

3:15 PM Cub Scout Den Meeting in the
Parish Hall

Wednesday, December 30, 2009

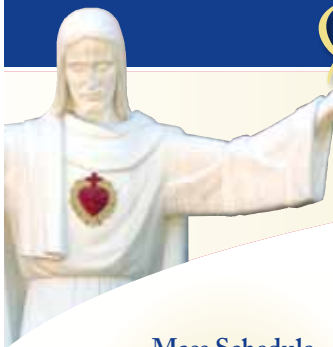
No Mom to Mom

Thursday, December 31, 2009

New Year's Eve

Office Closed at Noon

6:00 PM Vigil Mass



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Mass Schedule

Saturday

4 p.m. Reconciliation
5 p.m. Vigil Mass

Sunday

8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Masses
(September through May –
in effect after Labor Day)
9:30 a.m. Mass ONLY
(Memorial Day through Labor Day)

Weekdays

9 a.m. Mass – Monday through Thursday
9 a.m. Communion Service
and Adoration – Friday

Holy Days

7:30 p.m. Vigil Mass
(Evening before Holy Day)
9 a.m. Mass

Accepting God's Gift *continued from front cover*

the Magi might have discussed as they followed a mysterious star from Persia west toward Jerusalem. We sing of wonder as well as of joy: "Joy to the world... *Wonders* of his love," and we remember the wise men as they followed the "star of *wonder*." During the night, "while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of *wondering* love," for we know "How silently...the *wondrous* gift is given." God sent his Son into a humble corner of the world without great fanfare. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord" (Is 55:8).

And that brings us to our third theme this Christmas: **gift**. Jesus, the Son of God, the Babe of Bethlehem, is the first and greatest Christmas gift. Christianity begins with a gift: "God so loved the world that he *gave* his only Son" (Jn 3:16). Indeed, God gave us life, and we pray each and every day for God to "Give us this day our daily bread." And what should

our response be? Jesus Himself, the one given to us by the Father, taught, "It is more blessed to *give* than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Giving is an essential element of Christian living.

So then, as we approach Christmas this year, let us keep these concepts, *joy*, *wonder*, and *gift*, before our minds. Let us receive the *gift* of God's Son in our life with *joy* and with *wonder* at the greatness of God's love for us – and then let us pass on that love as we give from our time, our talent, and our treasure to our family, our friends, and our Church.

May God bless you all, and have a merry Christmas!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Bill Konicki, IVD