

CHALLENGES

This is the third in a series of articles designed to illuminate and promote discussion of important issues regarding the state of our parish.

*Please note: The entire series of **Challenges** can be found on our website, www.stjohnthebaptistchico.org.*

This week we highlight the Challenges of repairs, maintenance and other capital expenditures. The responsibilities of the Finance Council include the identification and prioritization of short-term and long-term capital projects and planning for the funding of these projects. The table below lists eleven projects that the Finance Council has identified and the estimated costs of each.

First, the plexiglass covering the exterior of our beautiful stained-glass windows, is in need of replacement. The plexiglass was installed over 40 years ago to prevent damage. It is no longer transparent and has become brittle. The plexiglass, along with the accumulated dirt blocks about 50% of the light and the brittleness makes the covers useless as protection from rocks or bottles. The replacement should be completed in several weeks.

There are seven additional capital repairs that require immediate or short-term attention. A strong offensive smell is emitted from the sump pump in the cafeteria kitchen requiring the replacement of the seal. The heating and air-conditioning unit in the basement cafeteria must be replaced. The sewer line that drains the gym and the cafeteria basement has backed up on several occasions and thus must be repaired. The potholes on the bottom half of the ramp make it difficult to navigate. Attempts have been made to fill the holes, but the condition is beyond repair. That section of the ramp needs to be replaced (the upper part of the ramp was replaced a year ago.) The garage roof next to the rectory is leaking and replacement is necessary. The doors of the church must be re-keyed for security reasons. The exterior of our church is in need of painting. This project will be costly because scaffolding will be required and the old lead based paint must be encased with a sealer in order to avoid having to remove it.

In addition, it has been recommended that the astro turn in front of the parish rectory be replaced. The plan is to replace it with brick pavers which will accommodate a removable canopy for protection from sun and light rain during hospitality gatherings after mass and other ceremonies.

The lighting inside of the church is in need of replacement. The inefficient fixtures do not provide the necessary light and the cost of use is high. It is recommended that this project be undertaken after the development plan discussed below is complete.

Finally, we recommend the development of a plan for an all encompassing remodel of the church interior which will require the professional expertise of outside consultants. In 1965, fifty-seven years after our 1908 church was built, a major renovation took place. Almost fifty years have passed since that remodel, and in a few years St John's parishioners may be considering another necessary remodel. Between now and then we will be required to repair and replace church items. In the interest of efficiency, it is important that any repair and replacement decisions we make reflect a unified design vision for our church. In other words, the development of a plan now will reduce remodel expenses in the future.

Thanks to a group of energetic people of great faith and great foresight we have our beautiful church and facilities today. We enjoy the fruits of their investments of time, energy and monies. How blessed we are! As today's parishioners, it is our responsibility to plan for and provide resources for upkeep and improvements within our budget that insure our safety, strengthen our faith and engagement in our parish today, while fulfilling our obligation to pass on our Catholic faith, our church, and our school to future generations. Please contact us with your suggestions and comments.

Greg Webb
gregwebb623@comcast.net
 (530)891-0845

Cathy O'Toole
cotoole@stjohnthebaptistchico.org
 (530)893-8760

PROJECT	Cost *	PROJECT	Cost *
Replace coverings on stained glass windows	\$12,000	Church Rekey	\$ 500
Basement kitchen sump pump repair	\$1,000	Church exterior paint	\$65,000
Church basement heating/air conditioning repair	\$10,000-\$11,000	Brick pavers in front of rectory	\$7,000
Sewer line repair	\$4,000	Church interior lighting	Unknown
Replacement of bottom half of ramp	\$4,000	Develop plan for future remodel of church interior	Unknown
Rectory garage roof replacement	\$4,000	*These are best estimates of the costs of these projects. Actual costs may vary.	

