



September 17, 2020

My Dear Parishioners:

Last Saturday, some of Knights came out and did some cleaning up around the church and rectory properties. You may have noticed that the shrubs and hedges, trees have been trimmed, power washing done to keep the weeds from growing, some grass cut, storage shed at the rectory cleaned inside, and more. Thank you to all the fellows who did come out, as the grounds look much tidier.

I mentioned last week after a Zoom meeting regarding catechism and youth ministries, I would have an update. There will be no students in class for the catechism program and youth meetings at the present time, and for the near future. There are now 32 children registered for catechism instruction; that is encouraging to see. We will be starting the catechism program in mid-October when the materials arrive. The Children's Religious Education program will be more home based.

If you are receiving emails from the parish office and this weekly message, you will notice a new one from the diocese regarding the annual appeal. A short video from Bishop Gary is speaking of the new theme: '*Horizons of Hope*'. The bishop spoke of the fog that we are in these days from the fires down south and in a fog, one has to circle closer together to see each other. This is an introduction to the *Horizons of Hope* as we move forward as a diocese. The appeal campaign will be starting in early October. As you know the parishes try to have a project for their own within the campaign. The proposal for this year's appeal in the parish is building a Marian Grotto. The location will be below the rocks where Fr. Josef had the rose garden. If you look towards the rectory, it would be left of the light pole and rhododendron behind it. Designs and estimated costs are being investigated for the new grotto. I think this is a great idea for the appeal and its' location to replace the one that was vandalized a few months ago.

A reminder that next week, Sept. 27th is a Canadian wide special collection for the Needs of the Church in Canada.

Church of the Ascension

887 Wembley Road • Parksville, B.C. • V9P 2E6

Tel.: 250-248-3747 • Fax: 250-248-2732 • Email: ascensionparish@shaw.ca

Dave Walter, Parish Pastoral Finance Vice Chair, has provided the following comments...

"Parishioners of the Ascension, I have an update for the Parish's Finances as of September 11th, 2020.

- Total Income \$163,072.00
- Total Expense \$144,431.00
- Operating Profit \$ 18,641.00

I continue to thank the Parishioners generosity through this pandemic and coming out to daily masses. As I mentioned in June, the Diocese has again been approved for the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) for the Parish and to date we have received \$17, 451.00 and will continue to do so until December 31st, 2020. This amount will vary based on the employee's average weekly remuneration. This has helped our bottom line as seen above.

In closing, next week I will be away on a week's holiday and Fr. Frank Franz will be here replacing me. I will be going with my brother Jim camping and golfing in Merritt, Logan Lake, Salmon Arm Kelowna as some of the possible places.

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Mike

cc: Dave Walter, Parish Pastoral Finance Vice Chair