

Dear Parishioners,

As we make our way through the one hundred eighth year as a parish community, I would like to begin by thanking you for your financial and spiritual support of Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Kitchener.

We now offer a new way for you to continue your financial support of Sacred Heart Parish. As an alternative to the traditional method of envelope donations, a Pre-Authorized Giving (aka Direct Deposit) plan has been introduced. We encourage you to enroll and participate in this new program. It will make it easier for you and your family to make regular donations to the church - especially for those parishioners who do not wish to carry cash or write cheques. To start the process, simply register with the Parish to have your donations directly debited from your bank account each month or another specified interval. This procedure will reduce the need for storing envelopes in our limited storage space at the rectory. Revenue Canada requires every parish to store all donation envelopes for a period of 7 years.

Suggested Annual Giving Plan:

Please consider creating a Pre-Authorized Giving Plan for you and your family. Calculate the total amount that you would like to donate on an annual basis and divide it into portions that suit your budget plan (monthly). For example, for monthly Pre-Authorized Giving, divide the annual amount you wish to give to the Church by twelve. This amount will be transferred every month directly from your bank account to the Church's account. For instance, if you were accustomed to donating \$20.00 a week, your total donation for the year came to \$ 1,040.00. If you decide to donate the same annual amount on the Pre-Authorized Giving Plan, then the monthly amount of \$86.67 will be transferred to the parish account from your bank account on or near the 20th day of each month ($\$ 1,040/12 = \$ 86.67$).

Special Collections:

While your offering will be transferred electronically, the parish will continue to provide envelopes to those who enroll in pre-authorized giving. These envelopes can still be placed into the collection as a sign of the pre-authorized gift you are giving to the parish. Please note that special collections (i.e. Share Lent, Seminary- Education, etc.) still require that offerings be placed into special envelopes, and will not be processed through pre-authorized giving.

For those wishing to continue using envelopes for weekly donations, determine your annual donation and divide it by 52 weeks. For instance, if you decide on an annual donation of \$1,040.00 place \$20.00 by cash or a cheque in your numbered envelope in the time-honoured tradition.

Why give?

Our annual operating budget expenses, as shown in our financial statements and published in March, are approximately \$350,000.00 – 400,000.00 and include;

- Diocesan tax - Cathedraticum (11% total income of the parish). In the year 2019 - \$38,091.00
- Repairs and improvements to the church buildings
- Sanctuary expenses
- Pastor's Salary (transferred to The Congregation of the Resurrection)
- Salaries for the employees: secretary, janitor, organists and musicians
- Various other parish management expenses

The outbreak of the pandemic in March led to the closure of all churches in Canada for a period of three months. Reopening them allowed the faithful to gather in only 30 percent of the church building's capacity. Such a tragic situation resulted in unsustainable finances and great losses for our parish that strongly shook its annual budget. The continuing pandemic could result in churches being closed again. The use of a Pre-Authorized Giving Plan by parishioners in such difficult times will contribute significantly to the financial support of our parish and enable it to fulfill its honourable mission.

Almost all the church's costs are covered by the donations of you, the parishioners. Out of 1,450 registered families, only 520 use the envelope and others writing cheques without using envelopes. The Pre-Authorized Giving plan provides a third option. All donations receive a receipt for income tax purposes.

As the Pastor of Sacred Heart Church, I am committed to preserving our financial stability, while maintaining and improving our church facilities. Along with the new commitment to the One Heart One Soul Campaign, we are continually looking at how to improve the function of our church. This up keeping is no easy task for a heritage building that is over 108 years old, but is critical to beautifying the Liturgy and devotions celebrated in this House of God. Please continue to cherish and pray in our church, get involved in the ministry of our faith community and consider using the Pre-Authorized Giving program to provide your ongoing financial support to the Parish on a monthly basis to our beloved parish family.

God bless all of You,
Saint Joseph, pray for us!

Fr. Adam Wroblewicz, C.R.