



2021 Stewardship Report for St. Catherine of Siena Church

Issue Date: April 8, 2022

As we look back at 2021, the first word that comes to mind is GRATITUDE. Even as we experienced another year of Covid with the isolation and suffering that it has brought upon the world, we were able to gather to worship on most Sundays in 2021 and that was a GIFT. We had limited capacity for 32 weeks (which in our situation meant 40-50 in attendance at each of our two Sunday masses), we were closed for 10 weeks, and we were wide open for 10 weeks from October 10th to December 12th. With the cooperation of those who felt comfortable to return, we filled our Church on Sunday in a fair sharing of the seats that were available to us. We also owe much gratitude to our Ministers of Hospitality team who ensured that all Covid guidelines were followed, and that people could gather in a safe and welcoming environment.

Parish Structure

Under the new structure of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, there is a Parish Finance Council. This Council is responsible for overseeing the finances for the Parish as a whole, and for establishing common policies and procedures. Last week, they released the 2021 Parish financial statement. At the Church level, St. Catherine's Finance Team continues to review our financial situation and are pleased to provide our Church's financial statement on the 2021 year. The format of both the Parish and Church statements is a standard format developed by the Parish Finance Council.

Sunday Collections & Operating Expenses



Financially, due to another year of Covid restrictions on attendance at Mass, we did not experience a 'normal' year, but with your help, we managed well.

In 2021, the revenue from our 'Sunday Collections' dropped 5.87% over 2020. We thank all of those who used their Sunday envelopes during this past year. Our Pre-Authorized Debit program remained strong and quite consistent with last year's level of giving. In 2021, again, we had a small number of parishioners who gave very large contributions through electronic fund transfer. Together, this helped us to meet our financial obligations. Thank you!

2021 Sunday Collections	
Weekly Envelopes	\$ 54,566
PAD (Pre-Authorized Debit)	\$ 38,828 (31 individuals/families)
EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer)	\$ 24,980 (21 individuals/families)
TOTAL	\$118,374

Mass attendance overall has a huge impact on the finances of our Church. To think that in 2019, our loose collection was just under \$23,000. Now, in 2021, it was \$2,000. As well, regular collections and special collections have decreased because of people not being in the pews. For example, our Christmas collection dropped from \$5,000 in 2019 to \$2,600 in 2021, and our Easter collection dropped from \$2,200 in 2019 to \$900 in 2021.

The goal is always to have 'Sunday Collections' cover our 'Operating Expenses' and this was not achieved in 2021. The format of the financial statement is organized such to allow this point to be evident. As you can see, our operating deficit grew this year to -\$14,713 due to the decrease in 'Sunday Collections' and the increase in 'Operating Expenses'. Most expenses remained quite consistent comparing 2020 to 2021. The significant increase was in our 'Diocesan Assessment'. The full assessment was charged in 2021 as opposed to a six-month reprieve from the Diocese due to Covid in 2020.



**Receipts and Expenditures with Previous Year Comparison
January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021**

	Jan - Dec 2021	Jan - Dec 2020
Sunday Collections	\$118,374	\$125,751
Operating Expenses:		
Salaries & Benefits	\$ 37,104	\$ 33,766
Church Expenses	42,526	42,867
Hall Expenses	23	235
Residence Expenses	17,828	17,868
Community, Formation & Mission	16,229	20,879
Diocesan Assessment	19,376	13,050
Total Operating Expenses	\$133,087	\$128,665
Operating Surplus/Deficit	-\$14,713	-\$2,914
Extraordinary Revenue:		
Capital Projects	\$ 2,929	\$ 12,283
Bingo	0	4,241
Covid-19 Wage Subsidy	4,118	10,039
Interest on Deposits with the Diocese	8,620	6,363
Room & Board	16,600	0
Donations, Fundraising and Other	4,238	6,822
Total Extraordinary Revenue	\$36,505	\$39,748
Extraordinary Expenditures:		
Capital Projects - Church	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Projects - Residence	-	-
Total Extraordinary Expenditures	\$0	\$0
Extraordinary Surplus/Deficit	\$36,505	\$39,748
Total Surplus/Deficit	\$21,792	\$36,834
Bank balance as at December 31st	\$54,749	\$79,826
Undesignated Funds on deposit at the Diocese	\$346,658	\$298,038

Extraordinary Revenue & Expense

Under 'Extraordinary Revenue', donations for 'Capital Projects' decreased, and the 'COVID-19 Wage Subsidy', provided by the government, ended in October 2021 and had been decreasing prior to it ending. The Diocese took over the payroll for staff and clergy of the Parish in 2021. All four Churches share equally in the gross salary and benefits payable to the Franciscans of Halifax for the services provided by Fr. Pio and Fr. Nathanael. The Diocese is also now deducting the standard 'Room and Board' amount (\$830 per priest/month), and that \$1,660/month is allocated to St. Catherine's to cover the cost of housing the parish clergy.

We consciously did not undertake any 'Extraordinary Expenditures' for either the Church or Rectory in this time of financial restraint. This decision allowed us to ensure that overall, we had a surplus of \$21,792 for the year ending 2021.

Pre-Authorized Debit Program

There is no question that 2020 and 2021 have shown us the importance of having parishioners contribute regularly and faithfully to our Church, even when they are not able to attend in person. It is of tremendous benefit to the Church to have more parishioners enroll in the Pre-Authorized Debit program as it provides us with consistent revenue. We encourage all parishioners to consider signing up today!! It's the same convenient way you use to pay many of your household bills. You can simply email office@saintcatherineofsiena.ca and we would be pleased to send you out a form. This is the vehicle of giving that we need to move donors to, so that revenue is not affected on snow days and, God forbid, if there are any further restrictions in the future.

As of December 31st, 2021, St. Catherine's had a bank balance of \$54,749, and funds on deposit with the Diocese of \$346,658. Think of it this way, our bank balance is our chequing account and our funds on deposit with the Diocese is our savings account. Of note, we earn 3% interest on our funds on deposit at the Diocese.

Give Thanks
TO
THE *Lord*
for **He is Good;**
His love endures
FOREVER
Psalm 107:1

Bayers Road Dedicated Bus Lane Update

In last year's financial report to parishioners, we gave you an update on our continuing negotiation with the HRM on the widening of Bayers Road for the dedicated bus lane, inbound and outbound. You may recall that in 2020, the widening of Bayers Road took place from Micmac Street to Romans Avenue. In 2021, the next phase saw work taking place on the intersection of Connaught Avenue and Bayers Road, including the entrance to the Halifax Shopping Centre. Our section of Bayers Road (Connaught to Windsor) was originally scheduled for 2022 but has now been postponed to 2023.



Originally, the HRM was expropriating 1.5 metres (5 feet) of property from us. In 2021, this changed to 1.5 feet as new studies showed that the HRM owns more property than they originally thought. Essentially, we are still losing 5 feet of property in front, however, we are being compensated for only 1.5 feet as the other 3.5 feet was found to be owned by the HRM. This was confirmed by our lawyers.

These negotiations have been underway since December 2019 between the Church/Diocese and the HRM, and we are very close to an agreement.

John Kennedy, the Archdiocesan Financial Administrator, has been invaluable in assisting Fr. Pio and Donna Noddin in this process.

In June of 2021, the decision was made to hire a company that specializes in this work and their contributions have been very positive. This consultant noted that the issues that we had identified were even greater than we had originally thought. Our concern from the start was to ensure our property was brought back to full functionality and our land was graded correctly. Specifically, our consultant has ensured that the driveways and parking lot will be sloped more gradually than originally suggested by the HRM. Your cars will appreciate this!!! Not only will our concerns be resolved, but our consultant will be onsite during construction when the actual work is being done.

Regarding on-street parking, in June 2021, Fr. Francesco and Donna Noddin met with HRM Transportation officials. We expressed our need for on-street parking. We believe that restrictions in-bound will be from 7:00–9:00 am, and out-bound from 3:00-6:00 pm, Monday to Friday, but it is hard to know how long this limited restriction on on-street parking can be maintained. Originally, the plan had called for no on-street parking from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

We received word on March 25th, 2022, from the HRM Transportation officials that bus lanes across the street from the church (outbound) will be put in place by the end of May 2022. Restrictions on parking will be from 3:00-6:00 pm, Monday to Friday.

Thankful & Grateful!

We are very thankful and grateful for all the support that has been given to St. Catherine's Church, both financially and spiritually, throughout this time. You can visit our new website - <https://saintcatherineofsiena.ca/donate> - to see how to donate by mail, electronic transfer, or pre-authorized debit (PAD).



We sincerely hope that with the easing of restrictions, this will mean that we will be seeing many of you soon, when you feel comfortable to return. Although we continue to gather as family, we miss those that we have been separated from over the last two years because of this pandemic. Our doors are wide open!

If you have any questions on this financial report, please email them to office@saintcatherineofsiena.ca.

St. Catherine of Siena Finance Team

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