

St. Athanasius

Parish Annual Report

July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

September 27, 2009

STATE OF ST. ATHANASIOUS PARISH 2008-2009

As the work of refurbishing our church exterior progresses, I continue to be tutored in the marvels of its construction. Our beautiful worship space is structurally supported by 14 very large **old growth Douglas fir columns**. In evaluating each column, we are discovering a range of conditions from “OK” to “let’s watch this one to assure long term stability.” Now in my 12th year as Pastor of St. Athanasius, I see parallels between the status of our church pillars and the vital elements that combine to create the vibrant parish life we all enjoy. My observations are about some of these pillars, namely Sunday Mass, a special gift, the Generations Campaign, our educational programs, and our financial condition.

SUNDAY MASS

During the Sundays of October 2007, an average of 657 people gathered at Mass. The average attendance at this central pillar of our parish during October 2008 increased to 750. As of June 2009, St. Athanasius Church had 1,013 registered households. I am inspired by the many parishioners and staff who continue to search for ways that give us a welcoming and nourishing place to celebrate the Eucharist. **Encouraging more families to make the decision to be present at Sunday Mass continues to be a core pastoral challenge.**



A SPECIAL GIFT

Earlier I mentioned “old growth” pillar parishioners. **Mrs. Katherine Klassen** was one of those quiet members. She died in 2006. Earlier this year, we learned that Katherine **left her parish a generous benefice in her will**. Such thoughtfulness always fills me with an appreciative awareness of how much St. A’s means to people. Following the advice of the parish Finance Committee, the bulk of Katherine’s gift will be used for the long term benefit of the parish. For instance, a portion is being contributed to the **Generations Campaign** building maintenance fund. As we work out more details, I will keep you informed. Deciding to leave St. Athanasius such a legacy is a continuing affirmation of our parish. Please keep Katherine and all those who have been generous to St. A’s over the years in your prayers.

GENERATIONS

Fifty new families have registered during this past year. They join all those solid “early growth” pillar parishioners and families that for generations have supported and improved our facilities. The **Generations Campaign** is only the latest example. Since last October 410 pledges, including 10 matching gifts, have totaled \$2.5 million. I am grateful for the parishioners who have not yet pledged but have expressed a willingness to help us raise the final \$500,000 of our goal so that we can complete the church repairs, acquire the Lindley Park property, and set aside funds for further maintenance. Reaching our **\$3 million goal is essential** since it appears that some unanticipated extra work will be needed to inspect and rebuild some or all of our church pillars.

EDUCATION

A solid pillar of our parish is that **commitment to provide quality educational opportunities for our young members**, both in our Family Program and in our School. The hope is to see them develop as leaders inspired by Christ's ways. For a second year our **school grew in enrollment**. Thanks to skilled leadership, an enthusiastic faculty, supportive parents, and the generosity of many, our School has met all its financial goals.

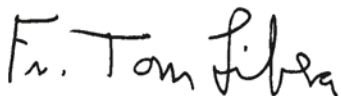
Early in 2009, **Cynthia Splatt joined us as Director of Adult Faith Formation and Religious Education**. I believe that a key ingredient for increasing the number of actively engaged parishioners comes when we decide, as Disciples of Christ, to become **lifelong learners**. Cynthia, along with a parishioner advisory group, is working to expand the opportunities St. A's can offer members of all ages to become excited as we deepen our faith lives. Two recent examples are to place our **"Faith First"** by taking time at parish meetings to reflect on the coming Sunday's Gospel. The other is the **Living Your Strengths** experience which names and affirms our God-given talents. How could we serve better the needs of our parishioners? Contact Cynthia or me with your suggestions.

THE COLD HARD FACTS

Finally, I need to talk about **one shaky pillar at St Athanasius, namely our everyday operating budget**. As you know, the major source of our budget comes from the **Sunday stewardship offering**. In 2007-2008 this offering rose by 4% over the previous year. However, **in 2008-2009, it decreased by 5%**. This decrease began during the cold pre-holiday months and coincided with the economic downturn. This is a cause for concern since our cash reserves are limited. On June 30 we concluded the 2009 fiscal year by delaying the payment of some Archdiocesan bills. This resulted in an **\$85,000 loan** which we are repaying over two years. The parish staff has diligently decreased church, Family Program, and LifeTeen expenses by 3%. However, if the present trend continues, even with a revised budget, **a notable deficit of \$80,000 is projected for this 2009-2010 fiscal year**. This situation cannot be sustained. Regrettably, I have instituted **a 10% salary cut for all pastoral and parish staff, including myself**. This is in addition to the salary freeze already in place this year for all Archdiocesan employees. (This salary cut does not affect those paid from the school budget.) Our parish financial report will go into more details, but **the weekend stewardship collection needs to increase by \$2,000 a week to avoid further cuts**. Joining the 118 parish families that use the **ParishPay program** to assure a weekly contribution to St. Athanasius is an effective way to help reverse the deficit trend. *Please consider increasing your financial contributions to sustain our parish family.*

These are difficult times. A strong pillar of St. A's is the willingness to support each other by prayers, encouragement, friendship, school scholarship grants, and St. Vincent de Paul assistance. All this generosity and more assures me that the old growth pillars of our faith – our discipleship to Christ – is, at the core, solid and strong.

In the Lord's Blessings,



Fr. Tom Libera
Pastor

Parish Statistics

	Year-end 6/30/09	Year-end 6/30/08
Registered Households	1,013	1,018
Baptisms	67	87
First Communions	63	57
Confirmations	47	52
Marriages	8	12
Funerals	20	26
Family Program Students	160	166
Parish School Students	350	317

Parish of St. Athanasius
Income Statement
For the Years Ended June 30, 2009 and 2008

Income		2009	2008
Parish Operations			
1	Sunday, Christmas and Easter collections	778,871	837,310
2	Parish fundraising	462	6,080
3	Religious Ed. Tuition/Donations & Fundraising	49,963	55,691
4	Youth ministry fundraising & donations	0	7,914
5	Other income (includes annual appeal rebate)	22,363	49,782
6	Interest, rent and endowment income	21,964	22,789
7	Bequests, memorials and gifts	1,480	17,635
	Total Parish Operations	875,103	997,201
Parish School Operations			
8	Tuition and fees	1,675,744	1,436,182
9	Fundraising, net	223,465	222,000
9a	Fundraising money from prior years	0	0
9b	School Excess overage to next fiscal year	-57,014	-37,373
10	Gifts and Donations	67,627	21,889
11	Other income	7,934	3,807
12	Subsidy from Parish Church	150,000	150,000
	Total Parish School Operations	2,067,756	1,796,505
	Total Income	2,942,859	2,793,706
Expense			
Parish Operations			
13	Salaries, wages and benefits	457,316	440,156
14	Utilities, repairs and insurance	153,402	143,693
15	Assessments paid to Archdiocese	112,794	106,622
16	Office, liturgical and administrative expenses	81,222	81,735
17	Ministries	18,003	39,281
18	Other Expenses	30,797	21,558
19	Subsidy to Parish School	150,000	150,000
	Total Parish Operations	1,003,535	983,045
Parish School Operations			
20	Salaries, wages and benefits	1,651,597	1,489,639
21	Utilities, repairs and insurance	162,904	128,157
22	Books and instructional materials	64,931	65,710
23	Computers and equipment	66,868	18,390
24	Office and other general expenses	78,677	74,702
25	Scholarships	42,779	19,907
	Total Parish School Operations	2,067,756	1,796,505
	Total Expenses	3,071,291	2,779,550
	Net Surplus (Deficit)	(128,432)	14,156

Sunday Christmas & Easter collections decreased by 7% over last year... for a total \$60,000.

The school subsidy remained as budgeted this year... at \$150,000.

Parish Operations expenses, other than salaries and benefits, increased by only 1% this year...

Salary & Benefits decreased by 4% and are 46% of total expenses...

Some Questions and Comments about Parish Finances

What is the bottom line?

We ended fiscal year 2009 with a net loss of (\$128,423). Cash flow was extremely tight requiring us to take an operating loan from the Archdiocese of \$85,000 which is to be paid off over two years.

Who contributes?

One-third of our parishioners give \$500 or more each year and we are grateful for their generosity. Our Parish is here for all of our parishioners, even those considered inactive or even non-supporting. Our community needs each and every member to contribute according to their means to make sure our services are available to all who need them.

What Can We Do About Parish Income?

The major source of our budget comes from your offerings in the collection. We cannot make ends meet on an ongoing basis without a consistent increase in overall contributions and Sunday offerings. Fortunately, those participating in our January Planned Offertory Program again promised a substantial percentage increase.

What is the best way to contribute?

Most parishioners use weekly or monthly envelopes to contribute. A growing number of parishioners - **118 families** - contribute online through **ParishPay**, a donation program allowing you to contribute automatically, either by debiting a bank account or using a credit card. If you would like to sign up for **ParishPay**, please go to www.parishpay.com.

Parish of St. Athanasius Balance Sheet June 30, 2009 and 2008

Assets	<u>2009</u>	<u>2008</u>
Cash for operations	127,078	208,574
Associated Organizations Cash	30,917	26,971
Receivables due to parish	36,968	22,454
Prepaid expenses	200	4,000
Church Repair Funds	90,188	0
Campaign Funds	603,495	146,318
Endowment funds	886,375	870,745
Total Assets	1,775,221	1,279,062
Liabilities and Fund Balance		
Prepaid school tuition and fees	210,964	250,703
School salary and other accruals	101,526	106,775
School Fundraising & Capitol carry forward	118,221	64,578
Loan from Archdiocese of Chicago	84,751	0
Donation received for future year	36,034	31,100
Endowment Restricted Funds	886,375	870,745
Campaign Restricted Funds	603,495	146,318
Associated Organizations Cash Reserves	36,953	26,971
Parish fund balance	(303,098)	(228,128)
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	1,775,221	1,279,062

If you have questions or concerns regarding our Annual Report, feel free to contact any of our Finance Committee members:

Fr. Tom Libera, Pastor

Robert Natke, Chair

Marion Amling, Business Manager

Karen Sonnicksen Sellers, Parish Administrator

Stephanie Buettell

Greg Stoklosa

Doug Wambach

Kristen Watson