

Father's Notes

December 8, 2024

Next Sunday (December 15th), members of our St. Philomena Hispanic community will be preparing some delicious food for us to enjoy following the Masses. Being new here, I've learned that this is something that is done a few times each year and serves a few purposes: first, to give us the pleasure of some great, hand-prepared food; second, to allow us to come together in the parish hall, to spend some time together, nurturing community; and third, to support the parish with the proceeds.

For this occasion, the proceeds will go toward St. Philomena's Annual Catholic Appeal assessment, which funds a number of important ministries that parishes collectively support.

Please allow me to better explain what the Annual Catholic Appeal is. I like to explain it this way: there are a number of ministries that are important elements of our Christian response, yet it's not feasible that each parish, individually, can provide all of these responses. Therefore, we work together as collective parishes for these purposes. Some examples include ministry to the incarcerated, CYO programs and camps, Catholic ministry on our state universities (specifically the excellent Newman Centers at both the University of Washington and Western Washington University). There's so much more. Again, we work together for what we cannot each do alone, and the Annual Catholic Appeal is how our parishes each do their part.

So, what follows is that each year, every parish is given their portion of funding these ministries (an assessment), based upon size of the respective parish and its income. Each year, we begin this campaign in early May. As of November 4th, here's where our respective parishes currently stand:

St. Thomas' assessment is \$43,448. So far, we've collected \$21,884. The amount remaining is \$21,600.

St. Philomena's assessment is \$84,596. So far, we've collected \$52,208. The amount remaining is \$32,400.

To explain further, at the closing of the cycle of this year's ACA, the respective remaining amounts are what the parishes will owe to the Archdiocese, which would come out of our general operating expenses. Thankfully, there is a bit more time, so there's no need to panic. Honestly, I didn't intend to get into talking about ACA numbers during Advent, except this wonderful food sale and its proceeds, compelled me to explain. I'll touch base again on the Annual Catholic Appeal after the new year. In the meantime, I want to express my gratitude to you for all the ways you are generous.

Our hope is that the response to this amazing food will cover some of what remains. I'm so grateful to our parishioners who are doing all this work in support of our parish, and I hope you'll plan to come, whether you are a St. Thomas or St. Philomena parishioner.



Father Todd O. Strange (*Pastor*)

+ St. Philomena Parish & School (*Des Moines, WA*)

+ St. Thomas Parish (*Tukwila, WA*)