

Dear Friends,

Today's Gospel begins on the afternoon of that first Easter. Two disciples of Jesus are making the seven-mile trip home to the village of Emmaus. They're joined by a stranger asking the subject of their conversation. In time he explains the meaning of the events of the past week, and when they eventually reach their village, they ask him to stay with them. In doing so, they come to know him in the breaking of the bread. The two disciples discover Christ alive and present in their midst, and we, like them, are able to do so as well in word, sacrament, prayer and in one another.

As a community united in the risen Christ we see him in the love, charity, goodness and generosity we give and receive. We see him in the support we give one another and the church. Throughout the past two years I have seen that support and generosity in many and varied ways. One of those ways has been through your financial support, support, I am happy to announce, which will allow us to pay off the church's mortgage at the end of May. Thanks both to your generosity and commitment we will be debt free in a month's time. Thank you!

With a fifteen year-old facility, though, comes important care and maintenance. As you have heard, one area in need of immediate attention is our roof. The report I was handed upon my arrival and the news I continually receive when minor repairs are performed is that it needs to be replaced, now.

On the advice of the parish finance council I wrote the archdiocese requesting permission to change our mortgage collection to a roof and maintenance collection that would temporarily be exempt from archdiocesan assessment. Permission was granted. Beginning next month the offertory envelopes we receive will reflect this change.

The good news is that the cost of replacement is manageable. It is approximately \$80,000. The other good news is that we have a small amount that could already be used for this new roof. The mortgage fund has an excess of approximately \$19,000. Since the fund is a dedicated account, the money can only be used for that purpose unless those who gave the donations agree otherwise. If you have been regularly donating to the mortgage fund and have an objection to your most recent gift(s) being used for the roof, I would ask you to please notify me in writing and I will make arrangements for a refund. If you have no objections there is no need to notify me. If you have any questions you may also contact me or Chrissy Lash, our bookkeeper.

In order that we may move quickly on replacing the roof I am asking every household to please consider making a pledge to the roof fund over the next few months. The sooner we are able to collect the monies needed, the sooner we can begin the necessary work. Thank you.

Peace and blessings,

Father John