

# **SAINT EMERY'S CHURCH NEWSLETTER**

June 12, 2016

## **Update of Church Building Repairs**

In December of last year, the heating system boiler in the church hall failed due to serious water leaks. Fortunately during December, the weather was unusually warm and events like the Cookie Walk and Fair did not need to be canceled due to lack of heat.

In January-February, a large effort was initiated to determine the best way to restore heat to the church with modern and more efficient equipment. Five heating system contractors submitted cost proposals with various approaches and each one was carefully reviewed. Of those, Universal Contractors was recommended by the Parish Council and Finance Committee in February to replace the failed boiler. Father Milan concurred. The next task was to secure funding.

In the meantime, the contractor that installed the boiler in early 2000 managed to revive the failed boiler with a 'patch' for several weeks and also managed to get the original steam heating system operating. You probably noticed heat coming from the radiators after years of not in use.

Unfortunately, in March the main church lighting system failed during the time the parish was seeking to secure a loan for the boiler replacement. The hall boiler also failed again.

### **Connecticut SBEA Program Opportunity**

The church lighting system failure combined with the boiler failure led to an opportunity to pursue Connecticut's Small Business Energy Advantage (SBEA) Program. The SBEA program provides loans and financial incentives to upgrade buildings (heat, lighting, etc.) to improve efficiency and save costs. In our area, United Illuminating and Southern Connecticut Gas administer the SBEA program. They use vendors to perform the work, which in our case was Energy Solutions LLC. The new boiler and lighting upgrades were combined to maximize our CT SBEA energy financial incentives.

### **Diocese Boiler Successful Insurance Claim**

The parish pays for property and liability insurance through the diocese to the Catholic Mutual Insurance Company. Father Milan submitted a claim to see if the loss of the failed boiler could be recovered. His persistent effort was very successful and the claim was approved for \$24,945.

### **Parish Loan Summary**

The SBEA program loan for the new boiler and lighting upgrades is \$46,836.61. With CT Energy financial incentives, this loan was reduced to \$37,192.61 and is the amount the parish financed at a 0% interest rate over 5 years. Securing this SBEA long-term loan was key since it allows the parish to maintain its annual discretionary financial reserves to protect against further unanticipated situations.

The SBEA loan will be paid down using the boiler insurance money and the 'Boiler Fund', which has grown to \$2,760. This leaves an outstanding loan balance of \$9,487.61 over 5 years.

We sincerely thank the parishioners who have donated to the Boiler Fund.

Installation of the new boiler will be completed in July. The church lighting upgrade and repair work was completed in time for St. Emery's annual concert on June 5th.

God Bless you, your families and God Bless St. Emery's Parish.

Parish Finance Committee

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