

A Step Taken in Faithfulness and into Fruitfulness

"The Church draws her life from the Eucharist. The Eucharist is indeed the source and summit of the Christian life.... Consequently, the gaze of the Church is constantly turned to her Lord, present in the Sacrament of the Altar, in which she discovers the full manifestation of His boundless love." (Saint John Paul II)

The unique adversity of the past year has highlighted this truth in quite memorable ways for our Saint Ambrose Catholic Community. From the stretching experience of not being able to receive Holy Communion for several weeks to the unforgettable outdoor parking lot Masses, the impressive line of vehicles on Christmas and Easter to receive the Eucharist, and the necessary adjustments required of us all so we could worship together in the Church, we have experienced the living Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood given for us, Christ's abiding Presence remaining always with us.

From the beginning of the pandemic it was so important to me that our Church doors would remain open so people could come into the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and receive the peace that only He can give. It was inspiring to see so many drawn at different moments into His Presence. Indeed, our gratitude and reverence have deepened as the mission of our parish community has been refocused by and from the gift of the Eucharist.

Beginning in Fall of this year we hope to begin Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration in the Saint Francis of Assisi Chapel. This devotion commits us as a parish in a concrete way to putting Christ first – learning to draw our life from Him, to be consoled, inspired, and moved by Him in all of life by simply spending time with Him. Practically speaking, it means that enough people in the parish are willing to spend just one hour a week with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, so that the Chapel is accessible at any hour of the day and week.

When we come to adore Jesus in the Eucharist, we give joy to Him who beckons us to come to Him as we are with our burdens and fatigue, and we receive from Him graces beyond measure: healing, consolation, and the new strength of faith, hope and charity. These graces overflow into our families and parish community as we learn to abide in and belong to Christ as the source of our life. It is my hope that we might commit together to this endeavor and opportunity by being open to committing an hour of our time to Eucharistic Adoration and more concretely by discerning a financial gift to making this a reality.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Peter Williams

Project: Build a secure entrance to our Saint Francis of Assisi Chapel with bathroom accessibility

Goal: Begin Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration this Fall

Rationale: Through Perpetual Adoration, Jesus in the Eucharist becomes ever more the very center and life our parish. As we learn to be generous with our time in going to meet Him, offering the deepest part of our hearts to Him, and receiving His personal love for us, we are transformed for generosity and self-giving love.

Specifics: The approximate cost of the project is \$450,000. Through the generosity of twenty or so parishioners, we have already raised \$305,000.

Timing of this Initiative: Faithfulness to God in the one essential thing with lead to faithfulness in every other aspect of our mission and to experiencing profoundly that God cannot be outdone in generosity.