



May 2025

Dear Friends,

Summertime Blessings!

As we near the end of this school year, summer is just around the corner. Farmers are already busy preparing fields and planting seeds. Kids K-12 are biting at the bit to be freed from the classrooms. Brides and grooms are anxious for the sound of wedding bells and ballroom and barn hall receptions. Someone sings about the “lazy hazy days of summer” and yet, for most of us, summertime signifies a *change* of pace...but not necessarily *slower* pace.

Things at All Saints will be anything but slow this summer, and that’s a good thing. Here in our sprawling corner of northwestern Seneca County, we passionately believe that *every member is a minister* of the good news of Jesus. There is no season when we aren’t committed to our mission of being a “*Rural Catholic Community of Faith*” that creates “*A Place for Everyone.*”

Here at All Saints, we will send our high school kids off to One Bread One Cup, a Liturgical Ministry Leadership experience that deepens our young people’s love for the Mass and for daily prayer. Other high school parishioners will attend the Steubenville conference that deepens their personal encounter with Jesus and fosters an ongoing relationship with Him. Our youngest parishioners will sing and dance their faith as they step into Vacation Bible School, learning to recognize patterns of sin while practicing biblical virtues of holiness. Each month, young couples will encounter Jesus’ faithful loving in the sacrament of marriage. And of course...there is the All Saints Festival...an experience of fun and fellowship for all ages...and a HUGE effort of love, sweat (and some tears too!)

The biggest visible sign of summertime activity this year will be the installation of the new art glass windows in church. After many years of delay, the old failing storm windows and the damaged, deteriorating, 150-year-old stained glass will be replaced. The new state-of-the-art windows will instruct and inspire us to practice the Corporal Works of Mercy. In Matthew 25, Jesus instructs that this is the pathway to heaven. If that IS the pathway to becoming saints, then that is THE defining story for us at *All Saints*.

The new windows project will require over \$750,000 from our capital expenses savings...The good news is that we have it, and that’s exactly what those sacrificial gifts are intended for. We’re grateful for generations of generosity that have always enabled us to meet the demands of being rural Catholic communities of faith.

We come to you now in this busy summer of 2025, with a request for continued generosity to replace the aging boiler in the parish hall that we are told will not last through another winter.

We know it has been failing...(there are actually two boilers from the original design, and only one has been working for a long, long time)...it has taken some time to look at the whole building and to come up with a plan that is financially reasonable and also technically sound to sustain the use of the hall for generations to come.

We have received recommendations from our Building Committee and our Finance and Pastoral Councils that we should move quickly this summer to replace our existing boiler system. Unlike a furnace in your home, this is a long process that we expect to take months to complete. This includes replacing the old boilers with new, more efficient ones, removing asbestos wrapped pipes and safely disposing of them, and doing cosmetic work to patch up remodeled areas. We are in the final steps of getting quotes and are quickly realizing the immense cost of a new heating and cooling system for the building. We are expecting the full cost of this project to be roughly \$400,000.

While we have the funds to complete the windows project and to replace the heating and cooling system in the parish hall, the Diocese wisely recommends that we maintain in our savings, at least 6 months' worth of expenses to operate without financial worry. Many of you may recognize the need to maintain an "emergency fund" for your own families. We could pay for the work "out of pocket," but it would diminish our savings to below where the diocese and our own Finance Council are comfortable.

In order to advance this project before winter, and while the building experiences its least demands for ministry, we need your generosity.

Our goal is to raise \$250,000 of the \$400,000 cost to have the system installed and working before we need it this fall. That will keep enough in our reserves to maintain our emergency fund. We hope to be able to pay for it by mid-June. We understand this is a large ask within a short amount of time. Our building committee holds great wisdom and experience and have a deep love for the mission of our parish. They think that the designs will satisfy our needs now and into the future; that the price of the system is appropriate; and that the contractors are reliable. All this work is to ensure we are able to continue to utilize our facilities to their fullest, and that we can continue to educate our youth and form our adults into disciples of Jesus and stewards of our Catholic faith.

If every household was able to give a gift of \$300 towards our 2025 maintenance appeal, we would exceed our goal. *We know that some households may be unable to reach that level of giving this summer and some may be able to contribute more.* **We appreciate every gift...and every gift is urgently needed.**

Please use the envelope included to respond to our 2025 maintenance appeal. **If all households consider our suggested gift of \$300, we will be able to reach our goal and ensure a warm building this fall and winter.**

As you are considering giving, feel free to reach out to us, your financial advisor, or tax preparer as there are great ways to contribute directly from your 401k's, IRA's, the grain bin, and investments that help to avoid or minimize the tax you may pay.

We are truly grateful for your generosity and your membership in our rural family of faith. I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve as your pastor.

With Faith, Hope and Incredible Love,

