

ST. GABRIEL PARISH BLACK RIVER, MI

FOUNDATION & WINDOWS PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN 2021

Dear Parishioners,

In my short time here as the administrator of your parish, I have been most impressed by the warm welcome and joy-filled spirit of St. Gabriel's parishioners. I know that the pandemic has prevented us from meeting regularly other than for the celebration of Mass. With social distancing requirements, we have not been able to utilize St. Gabriel Church as much as in the past. My hope is to resume Sunday Masses at St. Gabriel during the summer months (Memorial Day to Labor Day) to accommodate summertime residents and visitors.

The primary mission of St. Gabriel Parish is to be a witness to the Gospel in our area. Our beautiful, historic church with doors wide open to visitors on the highly traveled shores of Lake Huron is a perfect spot for a powerful encounter with the Risen Lord. People passing by are drawn inside for a quiet moment of prayer with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The fact that our church is the last remaining public building in a once bustling fishing and lumbering village is a testament to the endurance of our faith.

The parish Finance Council and I want to share with you some important projects that we have on the horizon to ensure the longevity of the church building itself so that we may be here for many generations to come proclaiming Jesus and Him crucified.

The first project is the church windows. It was shared with me that for some time the windows in the church have been



a major problem. They do not open safely for ventilation in the summer. They are original from the 1890's and are not energy efficient. That being said, our hope was to find replacement windows that match the historical character of the current windows down to the smallest detail. The new windows are being supplied by a local company. The windows are scheduled to be installed this spring.

As many of you are aware, the water level in Michigan has been extraordinarily high, St. Gabriel's has not been spared damage from this reality. This winter, we became aware of standing water in the crawlspace which is damaging the wooden floor joists. What has saved the church is the fact that the floor joists are hard and solid, made from timber harvested from Michigan's virgin forests. The constant moisture may also lead to problems with mold. Our only course of action to prevent the church's foundation from collapsing is to have a professional company come in and dry out the crawl space. Timing is important since we want to prevent further damage this spring.

Estimated Project Cost:

\$49,300

\$10,000 for new windows
replacing the original windows
from the 1890's.

\$39,300 to complete the waterproofing
of the crawlspace under the church and
hall, installation of 3 sump pumps, a
vaporLoc system, and mold remediation

How to give:

- Mail or place in the offertory basket an envelope marked "Building Project - St. Gabriel"
- Give online to St. Gabriel "Special Projects" fund

Please consider a gift to help save St. Gabriel's foundation!

Bishop Hurley, our Apostolic Administrator, is aware of the situation and supports our efforts to save St. Gabriel's foundation as long as you are, too. Fortunately we have the necessary funds available in our savings. However, it will take almost all of our savings for this project. Last fall we made a good decision to start an endowment in the Northern Michigan Catholic Foundation which will provide perpetual funds for the upkeep of St. Gabriel's church into the future. The interest from the endowment will ensure that St. Gabriel's has a stable income for other future projects. You can even make donations to the endowment fund (such as securities, stocks, disbursements from IRAs, etc.) to help it grow and ensure the future. There is an endowment for the St. Gabriel cemetery, too.

Please consider making a one-time gift or a recurring gift over the next five months to the St. Gabriel Special Projects Fund. You can set up an automatic recurring gift online. Thank you so much for your support in saving St. Gabriel's foundation for future generations!

God Bless,

Fr. Tyler Bischoff and St. Gabriel Finance Council