

Good morning St. John School,

The St. Oscar Romero Parish Finance Council has decided to undertake replacing the surface of parking lot for the entire Oscar Romero/St. John School complex. This is a welcome and needed capital project that will include all areas of the parking lot from Washington St to Revere Street. The hope is that this project will be accomplished over the summer in time for the 2025-2026 school year. With a project that impacts both parish and school, we split the costs evenly. The entire project will be around \$375,000 which means that St. John School will contribute approximately \$180,000. This funding will come directly from our Capital Endowment Fund, which currently has a balance of over \$370,000. We have not touched our Capital Endowment Fund since I have been principal (9 years), and this is an excellent expenditure. In addition to our Capital Endowment Fund, we have a healthy reserve fund that will not be touched for this project. You will see no increase in tuition or costs to fund this project. We are currently working on a tuition schedule for the 2025-2026 school year, and this project is not a factor. St. John School continues to be in excellent financial health and because of this we can easily afford this expenditure. For more information on the financial health of St. John School, view our Financial Outlook – January 2024 by [clicking here](#).

Please let me know if you have any questions.

See below for a letter from the St. Oscar Romero Parish Finance Council to the St. Oscar Romero Parish regarding this project.

Chris

October 2024

Limited Capital Campaign

Last fall our parish conducted a campaign asking us to think about our level of parish support. Its motto was, *Strengthening Our Present, Securing Our Future*. We asked parishioners to complete Commitment Cards to help with budgeting. Most did and it was beneficial. We asked parishioners to think about parish offertory outside of the historic “weekly” frame. While it is the system we’ve long associated with parish support, it harkens back to a day when there were far fewer ways to make payments. Many parishioners have since switched to various online options.

Historically, in addition to the weekly offering, our parishes conducted a Grand Annual Campaign in the fall. Moving away from the Grand Annual/Weekly Envelope model, and toward a predictable and sustainable flow of offertory remains our goal. We are pleased to report that for the first time in many years we concluded the last fiscal year with a balanced budget.

This fiscal year, July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025, we are faced with some unavoidable but one-time capital projects. Hence, in order to address them and not incur a deficit, we are asking you to consider an additional gift to this limited capital campaign.

As you have no doubt observed, the surface of our parish parking lot needs to be replaced. While the project will, of course, be put out to bid, we have an estimate of \$375,000. Since it includes the school perimeter, and the driveway to Revere Street, St. John’s School will cover half the cost, a bit over \$180,000 for each of us. Aware of this impending need we have grown our Capital Improvement Account to \$100,000. (See --- in our detailed Financial Report.) If this limited campaign could raise \$80,000, we could undertake the project without jeopardizing our progress on the annual budget.

As an aside, we are fortunate to be one of a shrinking number of churches that have authentic and functioning church bells. People often marvel when hearing them peel before Masses or other occasions. After six decades of exposure to the elements, our bell tower and the ringing apparatus require an overhaul. The total cost of this project is about \$24,000. If a parishioner or a family would like to underwrite this project, perhaps as a family memorial, it would be enormously beneficial. Please let us know if you are interested.

We hope to begin and conclude this appeal in November. Thank you for consideration of our request and thank you for your support of St. Oscar Romero Parish.

Father Rafferty and

The St. Oscar Romero Parish Finance Council

