

December 13, 2021

Dear Trusting Faithful,

Last year, about this time, you received a request letter, from me, for a Special Year End Gift. Your kindness in responding was inspiring. This year, like last year, comes to an end after a “long and winding road.” The wind has not always been at our back. Yet, as a community of believers, we have together faced the changing currents of our times. You have done so with faith, hope and love.

With the distribution of vaccines and other safety precautions, more people are returning to Sunday Mass. Hopefully, in time, many more will feel comfortable.

The pain of the school closing and other fields of tensions seem to be slowly healing. Thanks to all of you who continue to reach out to our hurt and angry brothers and sisters.

We are planning for St. Patrick’s Day celebrations. In 2021, again, we missed the fellowship and financial support generated with that day. Your other forms of support have eased the burden of that loss. We all worked together to achieve a very successful series of Fish Fries during the winter virus surge. Fine, fine attendance at the Quilt Social and the very fine community support for the Flea Market. Some of you came to a few Bunco nights, and “horse - racing” evenings. Our community in September celebrated six months before 2022 St. Patrick’s Day with enthusiasm and physical presence in the parking lot. Over 250 people stopped by for music and drink.

In the midst of all kinds of uncertainty your response to the Annual Catholic Appeal again exceeded the Archdiocesan goal for us. Your weekly offerings have been increasing along with the Archdiocese’s special collections - many thanks.

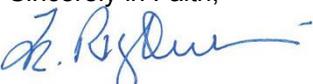
Your generosity has and is needed to demonstrate the viability and parish spirit because of our on-going maintenance issues, as well as, some neglected landscaping projects. The aesthetics of our property need to match the increase in Dogtown’s home and retail values. Our “looks” are important. The early childhood program keeps growing in visibility through competent leadership and Christian value-based preschool activities - including a great Halloween outreach. More and more community non-profits hold their functions in the gym, cafeteria, and playground. Our new outdoor basketball equipment has been welcomed by lots of young and early adults.

As your Pastor, I am very optimistic and encouraged about the coming year. Please consider a year-end gift to help “keep the lights on.”

Please use the enclosed return envelope via stamp, collection plate, or the rectory dropbox, whatever is the best way for you and your family. I’d love to see you at Mass over the holidays and each Sunday. Our Masses are growing to be beautiful celebrations. Your gifts help with everything from helping the economic needs of lots of folks - those we have not served before Covid and employment and security issues. Your gift enables proposed expansion of educational opportunities and social justice challenges as they arise.

Merry Christmas and let us pray for each other at Mass and in your homes.

Sincerely in Faith,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fr. Richard Quirk".

Fr. Richard Quirk, Ph.D., Pastor

With your help, the following jobs have been undertaken the last two years:

December 2019 - Mid-March 2020

- Moved St. James statue in church
- Painted exterior front school windows
- Lead painting complete in school
- Religious-exempt licensing approved for early childhood
- Wrought iron railing added at Sanctuary
- Fixed railings outside of rectory

Mid-March 2020 - June 2020

- Polished all pews and wood on choir loft and sanctuary in church
- Cleaned storage room in the back of church
- Painted Sacristy Work Room
- Finished wall repair and painted church bathroom
- Painted radiator in rectory basement bathroom
- Painted Andrew's piano stand in church
- Painted lamppost and numbers in front of rectory
- Painted marquee in front of school
- Painted railings black around church and rectory (Ladies Sodality)
- Hung curtains behind altar in Daily Chapel
- Bought and placed a votive stand in Daily Chapel
- Moved tabernacle to Daily Chapel and put up curtains behind it
- Planted new flowers around rectory (Heavenly Gardeners)
- Well-being phone calls to all parishioners (Stewardship Committee)
- Cleaned up Clinic in school for auction room (Auction Committee)
- Roof storage sheds in schoolyard replaced by volunteers and donated materials
- Added ceiling fans in sacristy to improve air movement
- Added downspout at second floor of school to eliminate water damage to inside ceilings

- Replaced LED light fixture in rectory basement kitchen
- Replaced wiring on overhead garage doors at rectory
- Repaired rolling gate at schoolyard
- Air conditioners have been checked and filters changed
- Repaired drain at rectory kitchen up and down
- Repaired access panel rectory basement
- Changed Confessional to south side
- Added shelving to north side confessional for music storage

June 2020-December 2020

- Early childhood cleaned and inventoried
- Church tuckpointing completed (18-19 EPV Grant)
- Storage building roof and tuckpointing completed (19-20 EPV Grant)
- Rectory lot paved (19-20 EPV Grant)
- Lights installed to enhance tapestry in sanctuary
- Lights adjusted to shine brighter on side altar, candles added and bouquet
- Moved Mary and Joseph statues to the credence tables
- Lights adjusted to shine brighter on Mother of Perpetual Help
- Placed velvet rope at top of stairs in church
- Replaced flooring at altar (wood floor and rug)
- Added signs outside the center advertising open space for rent/lease
- Painted exterior doors of rectory
- Added a "Daily Chapel" sign to the chapel door
- Moved wardrobe out of sacristy and replaced with a pew
- Drawers and closet in the sacristy reorganized
- Added curtains to tabernacle

- Added curtains in Daily Chapel windows
- Moved flags and lights next to St. James statue in church
- Installed new router and switch in school building
- 2 new computers installed in rectory
- ACA 2020 Total: \$42,107.00
- Painted living room in main suite in rectory
- Painted rectory porch ceiling
- Memorial Garden weeded
- Early Childhood playground weeded
- Moved lectern from chapel to church, put a new one in chapel
- Bought a new Missal for the altar and Missal stand
- Built a tabernacle stand for the chapel
- New lights on the schoolyard parking lot
- Recirculating water tank put in for church boiler
- Replaced gas feeder pipe from Nashville side of church (35 feet)
- Recirculating motor replaced for hot water heat line on school boiler
- Re-lamp church lighting



With your help, the following jobs have been undertaken the last two years:

January 2021 - Present

- Painted bathroom in the rectory
- Plastered and painted bathroom in church basement
- New outdoor gathering space added to southside of church involved removing bushes and pouring concrete
- Planters, benches, patio furniture purchased for patio
- Installed dedication sign for patio
- Flowers planted in planters
- Repaired and painted chipping plaster in rectory bedrooms
- Installed shelf in wine room
- Moved Sacred Heart statue to side altar and added benches
- Moved St. James statue and added St. Patrick and St. Bridget
- New church sign on northside of church
- Hired a new director for ECEC - increased enrollment and strengthened curriculum
- License-exempt re-approved for ECEC
- Waxed early childhood floors
- Touched up windows with paint
- Installed AC in rectory kitchen
- Repaired leak in church AC
- Plastered hole in the sacristy
- Plastered hole in the ceiling of rectory basement kitchen
- Weeded early childhood playground and memorial garden space
- Removed rocks and replaced with sod in memorial garden space
- Replaced all lights in church to be same color
- Made the basement chapel a meeting room with conference table and chairs
- Repaired and painted chipping plaster in rectory back hallway
- Replaced broken or missing slate on rectory and church roof (20-21 EPV Grant)
- St. James Center boiler inspected
- Fire extinguishers inspected
- ACA 2021 Total: \$42,008.06
- Dead ash tree removed in front of center
- Repaired leaking stack above snack bar in center
- Plastered back hallway of rectory
- Portable AC unit bought for Fr. Flynn Room
- All Church doors stripped and refinished; hardware repainted
- Pruned down the 3 burning bushes in front of church
- At each north and south staircase to church, removed 2 large Arborvitae at tops of stairs
- Removed 2 Privet bushes at mid railings
- Three additional ash trees removed from front of center
- Rectory tuckpointing completed (2018-2019 EPV Grant)
- Replaced all 4 outdoor basketball backboards and rims in the back of the center
- Repaired church walls on southside from previous water damage

