

St. John the Baptist Church

Report to Commissions Mark Dittman, Parish Business Administrator

November 18, 2015

1. **Current Financial Status.** As you know, our giving is down from last year and from our year-to-date budget. However, it is helpful to remember that we are four months in to a 12-month cycle, with our biggest giving months ahead. When you factor in the expense side, we are also below our projected expense budget, giving us a net actual deficit of \$99,485, compared to a budgeted deficit at this point of \$103,266. We are hopeful that our parish community's generosity during the remaining months of the calendar and fiscal years, along with prudent oversight of our expenses, will balance our budget.
2. **2015 FallFest Financial Report.** The numbers are in! Here is the final report on the 2015 FallFest below.

St. John the Baptist 2015 FallFest Financial Report

	Income	Expense	net
Raffle	\$ 38,478	\$ (13,560)	\$ 24,918
Booya	\$ 12,106	\$ (4,532)	\$ 7,574
Sponsors/Donations	\$ 11,288		\$ 11,288
Entertainment	\$ 9,363	\$ (6,446)	\$ 2,917
Food/beverage	\$ 21,922	\$ (13,741)	\$ 8,181
Market Fair	\$ 2,511		\$ 2,511
Administration		\$ (11,802)	\$ (11,802)
Harvest Ball Dinner	\$ 5,200	\$ (1,900)	\$ 3,300
Other	\$ 1,205	\$ (221)	\$ 984
Totals	\$ 102,073	\$ (52,202)	\$ 49,871

Thank you again to all who supported our 2015 FallFest!

Planning for our 2016 FallFest will soon be underway.

3. **Commission Meetings.** I would like to visit several commission meetings over the course of this year. Normally I attend the Finance Commission, but I am working with that Commission to allow me to visit at least one other commission per meeting night. If you have a topic that I can speak to, or have questions for me that I can address in person, please let me know. I would very much like to meet and know as many of our commissions and members as I can!
4. **Capital projects in planning stage.** As you may know, there are three substantial capital projects being planned right now. They are the church lighting project, the school security project, and the cemetery columbarium project.

(continued)

The church lighting project, in which we will retrofit our worship space with high-efficiency and better-lighting LED lights, will be funded in part from the proceeds from our 2015 FallFest. The balance of funding will need to come from our capital reserves. Scope and cost options are being prepared now.

The school security project originates from our 2014 accreditation team visit. In its report on our accreditation (which was granted until 2021) the Minnesota Nonpublic School Accrediting Association (MNSAA) challenged us to “improve and manage campus accessibility and recommends securing all locations that students and staff utilize during the school day.” Because of the nature of our buildings’ levels, stairways, elevators and doorways, securing space used by the school will necessarily impact access and use of space that is either shared between parish and school, or that is used primarily by the parish. Our options and costs here are complex, with domino-like effects among the choices. The various needs and options are being assembled now, along with cost and use factors.

The Cemetery Committee recently entertained a proposal from Loucks Associates, a landscape architectural firm that specializes in designing cemeteries and columbaria. Among the services in their proposal was a survey of the areas within the cemetery in which we are considering placing columbarium structures. The Committee’s plan is to review this proposal and make a decision to engage the firm or not in the near future. Because of the season’s imminent snowfall, however, I have authorized Loucks to conduct the survey portion of their proposal immediately.

It is my hope to gather information on design, scope and cost for these projects and present it to several commissions for their information and input before final decisions are made. A decision to spend the kind of money these projects require will certainly have to go through our Finance Commission and Parish Leadership Council. However, there are several other commissions whose review and expertise will be welcome and appreciated.

It may be most efficient to call a special meeting of all interested commissions to review these projects all at once, so that all members hear the same thing and have an opportunity for input. I am open to the feedback of any commission chair or member on this process.