

## 5<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time

This week was Catholic Schools week. It concluded with a volley ball game between the students and the teachers and this year the teachers lost by only one point.

At the annual Archdiocese Catholic Schools breakfast this year the speaker entitled her talk “irresistible schools” and the many reasons why Catholic schools stand out from other learning institutions. She quotes Pope Francis as saying that “we should be fearfully open to the work of the Holy Spirit. “

I believe that we are seeing great work being done by the Holy Spirit in our Catholic Schools and Our Archdiocese, and our parish.

I wasn't planning to make this weekend a state of the parish address, but I do think it is timely to share with you what is coming our way this year both of in the parish and in the Archdiocese.

To start I'd like to first welcome the new families that have answered Gods call to make SJN their new parish home. God has chosen you to go and bear fruit.

Our commitment to you is to provide a place of prayerful support for your family as we journey together to learn about God and to serve Him.

In today's Gospel Jesus touched the hand of Peters sick mother in law who was then healed and immediately got up and started serving them.

The reason God heals our sickness both physically and spiritually is so that we are able to go serve others.

Here at SJN We are committed to serving in many ways.

If you haven't read please do so. Young people if you no longer live at home you need to register yourself. You can register on line at [sjnok.org](http://sjnok.org). At the office, or at the welcome desk.

We are a missionary discipleship parish of just over 1300 families . We have been averaging about one new family joining our parish per week over the past year.

We understand that the natural response from people who follow Christ leads to a life of stewardship. At SJN we identify that way of life with the 3 Bs- Building Bridging and Being Christ to each other, our community and beyond.

God has blessed us abundantly.

In gratitude we return a portion of our gifts back to Him.

Returning a portion of our gifts back to God keeps us grounded, grateful, and generous.

I'd like to explain a few of the mechanics of parish life and the opportunities available at SJN.

When we say Catholic what we mean is big. As St. Augustine said in his Confessions, the Beauty of our faith is ever ancient, ever new. We don't think in just terms of ourselves, or just the Archdiocese but the Catholic Church Universal worldwide.

We think of our historical start of Christ with His Church and our conclusion with Him when He returns, and how to best serve Him in the meantime.

Like Job says today in the first reading, “my days are swifter than a Weaver's shuttle.” So we want to use each day that God gives us to serve Him.

That's the big picture, here's a snapshot of how we fit into that picture at our particular Church on very practical level.

The first and primary weekly collection that comes from your financial & material gifts is budgeted each year for the ongoing ministries of the church and school.

We call it the general collection - that pays for utilities, salaries, insurance, maintenance, technology, continuing education, programs and a host of other things that helps keep this big family healthy and happy.

The second is our building fund. We no longer pass the basket a second time for the building fund because you

have envelopes for that.

The Building Fund Currently has earmarked an account for a storage/maintenance barn. That money will continue to grow until we determine exactly where to build that facility to best serve our campus and also preserve green space for our school which helps with accreditation. So with that in mind, some of our original plans are evolving.

We still have seed money set aside within the building fund accounts for a tornado shelter/meeting rooms/classrooms. More on that in a minute.

For the sake of simplicity- I want to list four categories of mission advancement/operations.

1) weekly collection- if we don't make our annual budget then we have more fundraisers and cut back programs and conferences. The ideal standard would be that we wouldn't need fundraisers because our weekly collection covers everything but we're not there yet. But financially we are ok and still paying the bills.  
2) Building Fund- Barn and ongoing plant maintenance.

A) church renovation - many years ago someone established a trust for church renovation. I guess they could see even then that we were going to need some help sooner or later. That trust is separate from other accounts and is only to be used for church renovation. And it's taking longer than I had hoped but we want to do it right. The most expensive way to build something is to do it cheap the first time and then go back and redo it right.

3) annual collections- holy land, retired priests and nuns, Catholic University, - these are approved by the usccb. There is an envelope. If you don't place your donation in a marked envelope, we keep it.

We put notices in the bulletin, focknotes and EEB for these collections.

One of these is the Annual Catholic Charities appeal and the Annual Catholic Appeal.

CC stays here and so does the ACA.

CC offers family counseling, adoptions, woman's shelters, clinics, refugee resettlement, and many social services.

ACA (ADF) - Catholic Pastoral Center- Archbishops Office, administrative wing -office family life, new evangelization and discipleship, youth and young adult, tribunal, marriage preparation, annulments, chancery, etc

Next week is the ACA

4) capital campaign -

This is a one time commitment on top of 1,2 & 3.

The Fundraising and Development office has organized and prioritized what the Archdiocese needs in the next 5-20 years.

First is a shrine for Blessed Stanley Rother. And a large church for Archdiocesan events. Third a parish to serve the ever growing Hispanic Catholic population in south central Okc. We can do all three of those at once on the property purchased on 89th and shields.

We also need to repair and renovate the cathedral.

Endowment for seminarian education. Priest retirement facilities for the priest of Oklahoma.

The capital campaign will roll out in 4 waves. The first wave has begun in about a dozen parishes in the Archdiocese.

Waves 2, 3 and 4 will begin throughout the rest of this year. We will probably be in wave 2 or 3.

We also want to build a discipleship center. A two story building that would be an above ground tornado shelter on the first floor and middle school classrooms on the second floor.

The first floor would be used day in and day out as extra meeting spaces but would shelter about 300+ people in case of tornado.

The Archdiocese understands our needs as well so they are creating a path for us to participate in both the Capital Campaign and fundraise for a Discipleship center at the same time.

We have hired a company to start this month to do a feasibility study on how much our parish can raise so some of you will be hearing from me, in the coming weeks.

Job was impatient about many things. Mostly because they had to do with little details of Daily life.

Jesus reminds us that God has a plan but it is to be worked out in His time.

We can get caught up in worrying about the details of life. Or we can let God take care of the details and let ourselves get caught up in God.