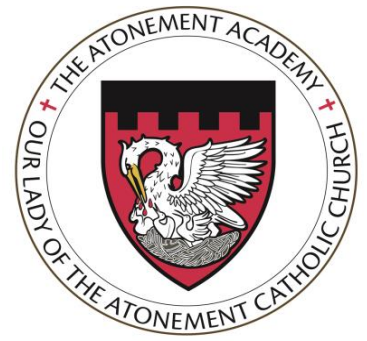


# Our Lady of The Atonement Catholic Church

A Parish of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of Saint Peter

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October 7, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last year, I committed to keeping you informed about the financial health of the parish. I am pleased to announce some very exciting news. God is blessing us and we would like to improve our facilities and programs to meet our current needs.

I humbly ask for your financial support to fund four projects which will benefit our community by enhancing our mission of Christ, bring greater financial stability, and add to our beautiful sacred place.

First, our Business Manager and Finance Council have been working with financial institutions to restructure our existing debt. As pastor, it has been my objective for the parish not to incur any additional debt. As you can imagine, during the pandemic this has been very difficult. Our lender has reviewed our finances and agreed to modify our current loan in two particularly important ways:

1. Re-amortize our existing mortgage from a 20-year loan to a 25-year loan; and
2. Lower our interest rate.

This will significantly reduce our monthly mortgage, enable the parish to make capital improvements, and increase the financial stability of our parish and school. However, in order to have our loan restructured, we need to pay down our current debt by \$100,000 by October 30, 2020.

You may have noticed many new families and individuals attending Mass. This is truly a blessing. The second project is establishing the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and a Mother's Day Out Program which will extend our ministry and meet the needs of our growing parish. Both of these programs are designed to educate our young children in the faith. In addition, we will be assisting our moms by providing a safe, spiritually enriching environment to which they can entrust their children, while at the same time providing them time to complete other chores or give them a brief respite.

We have been given the construction permit to finish the interior part of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor in the new building, roughly 25% of the first floor space. Construction will take approximately 60 days to complete. The projected cost is \$200,000 with the goal of being ready by January 2021. Once completed this new multi-purpose space will have the capacity to host 250 people. The ministries mentioned above are much needed, as God is blessing us with many new families who have young children. Furthermore, we plan to offer these ministries to the greater San Antonio area which has the potential of being a significant source of revenue.

The third project is the improvement of our current sound system in the Church. Over the last year, many of our faithful have come to me to express their inability to hear at Mass. I am often asked, what can be done to improve our sound system? After much research, we have found a system that will improve the quality for all to hear. I understand how frustrating it is to attend Mass and not be able to hear. For the good of our community this persistent issue will be corrected. The cost of the replacing the sound system and installing new speakers is \$20,330.

Our fourth project is one that is very special to me and I'm sure to many of you. As believers in Christ, we are called to take care of those who have died. Our Sacred Heart Chapel is the final resting place for many of our loved ones. However, this is no longer an option, as all of the niches have been purchased. I have looked into how we can meet the additional demand for niches while maintaining the dignity that they all deserve. Building a double-sided freestanding granite columbarium with 48 additional niches in our church courtyard, near the outside altar, will provide for our departed faithful a beautiful resting place. The cost is \$36,260.

The total amount to fund these four important projects is \$356,590. I realize this is a significant amount, but the benefits far outweigh the cost. By restructuring our debt, plus the estimated income from the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd and Mother's Day Out Program, in addition to the 48 additional niches, these projects should pay for themselves in two to three years.

God has put before us the opportunity to enhance our ministries while at the same time being fiscally responsible. I am inviting each member of our parish and school community to prayerfully consider supporting these projects. We have over 700 registered families in the parish and another 177 families registered at the school. If each family would contribute \$500, we will exceed our goal. I realize that not all of us can give that amount, some of us can give more, but give what you can. For the work we do today will reap benefits for generations to come.

Vickey and I have already made our contribution for the **2020 Special Projects**. If you would like to join us:

- Mail your check to the parish business office. Note in the memo line: 2020 Special Projects;
- Place in the offertory plate at Mass. Note in the memo line: 2020 Special Projects; or
- Go to our website ([ourladyoftheatonement.org](http://ourladyoftheatonement.org)) and click on the [offertory](#) button and select 2020 Special Projects from the Fund drop down menu.

If we walk in faith, we shall see the Glory of the Lord. May God, who has blessed us so richly continue to shine His grace upon us.

Our Lady of the Atonement-Pray for us!  
St. Monica-Pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Rev. Mark W. Lewis  
Pastor