

# Under One Roof

Caring For Our  
Common Future



# Welcome

It is with great joy and hope that we welcome many returning and new parishioners to St Basil's AFTER (more or less) the era of COVID 19. It's wonderful to see so many celebrating liturgies and community events together. Our ministries have resumed activities. These provide opportunities for involvement, and spiritual and personal growth.

St Basil's Parish has a long and proud history. You are invited to read the very concise history of the Parish which you will find in Appendix A. It conveys the spirit of St Basil's Parish, our values and traditions.

You are also encouraged to be mindful of our parish Mission Statement. St Basil's Mission Statement was developed many years ago and has been confirmed several times. It has withstood the tests of time. It contains seven clearly defined commitments.

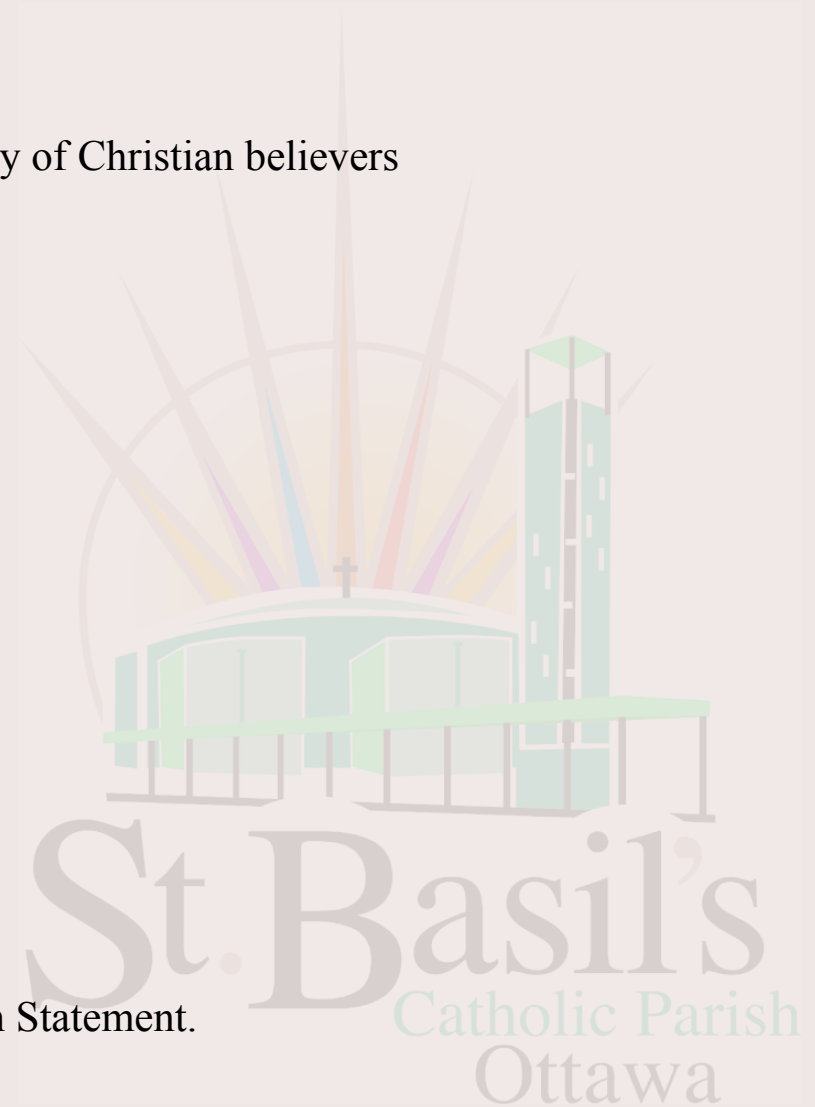
To sit quietly in the embrace of the sacred space of St. Basil's, a place which has been recognized for its historical significance and beauty, is to feel God's hand in one's own. This space, our space, represents its own environment – the great Canadian Shield, the special light of winter, the sound of beautiful music, the coming together of community. Deo Gratias! Alleluia!

# Mission Statement

We of St. Basil's Parish strive to be a welcoming community of Christian believers

- *Empowered by the Spirit*
- *Challenged and nourished by the Word of God*
- *Discerning together the way of Jesus*
- *Supporting and nurturing one another in love*
- *Compassionately committed to the poor and oppressed*
- *Harnessing the wealth of our goods*
- *In joyful celebration*
- *Rich in a heritage built by laity and Basilians*
- *We journey in hope.*

Appendix B shows links between our plans and the Mission Statement.



# Our Needs

Today, we ask that you give your thoughts and prayers to St Basil's wellbeing. Consider how you can assist our parish to continue as a viable Catholic Parish. We invite you to consider a new investment of the resources that God has given you - your prayers, your energy, and your money - in this work of fulfilling our Mission. This, of course, brings us to our financial needs which we frame according to the aspiration of our mission statement.

First of all, there are some important facts we need to know, and they relate to our expenses and who pays the bills. Every parish in the diocese depends on the money it is able to raise to support its operations and to keep its building maintained. A parish does not receive operational funds from the archdiocese. In fact, every parish in the archdiocese pays a percentage tax to the diocese to cover diocesan expenses.

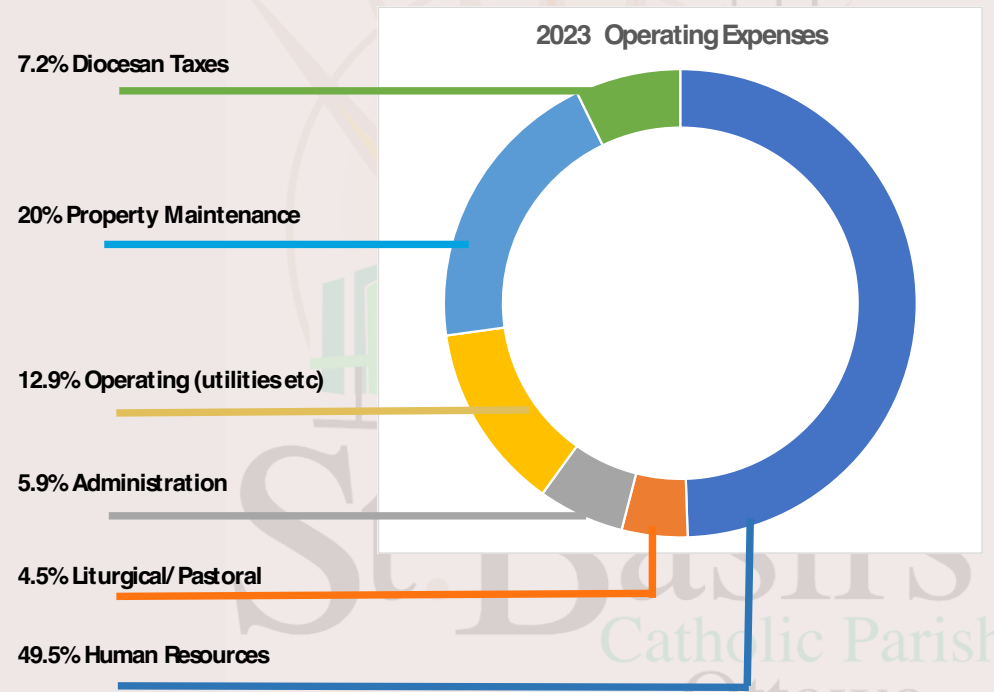
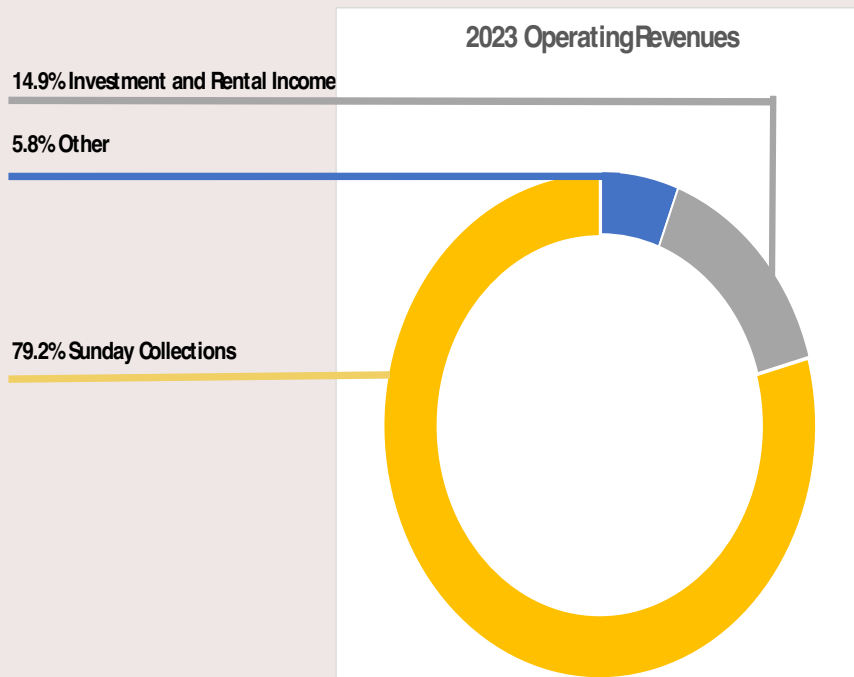
Like any entity, St Basil's has regular operating expenses and special needs that present themselves from time to time. In preparing the budget for 2025, Finance Council foresees the need for increased funding in two distinct financial areas: operational funding and capital improvements.

**In the category of capital requirements, we need \$450K over next 3 years. And, our regular operating costs require an overall increase of \$62K which is about a 20% increase over last year.**

# Funding for Operations

## Revenue and Expenses

Take a look at pie charts below. They provide a breakdown of St Basil's sources of revenue and expenses for operations in 2023.



# Funding for Operations

## Keeping the lights on and the door open

79.2% of the money for operations come from Sunday Collections

The money donated in the Sunday offertory collection is critical for daily operations of the parish

The entire sustainability of the parish depends on the Sunday collection whether through Sunday envelopes, monthly cheques, e-transfers, PAD or donations via Canada Helps

This money supports the daily operations of the parish

- paying for utilities
- paying salaries of the Pastor and our valued staff
- paying for general maintenance of the building and grounds

Income via Sunday collections is essential, so vital that it must also be sustainable, regular, and dependable

Your on-going support is crucial for the future of the parish



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# Capital Requirements

## Our Sacred Spaces

Throughout our history, St Basil's has always had a strong culture of responsibility for our sacred spaces. You have continued to provide outstanding financial support for special projects to maintain and preserve our beautiful round building.

Recent examples are "Foundations for the Future, 2015" which addressed many structural and foundation issues of the building and "Accessibility and Hospitality, 2019" to replace the lift and install a new furnace.

This year our improvements go beyond routine maintenance. In order to understand the long-term viability of the Diocese and its buildings, the Archdiocese commissioned an engineering firm to conduct a Building Assessment of all its buildings.

The purpose was to provide each parish with an overview of the current conditions of the parish property, to identify and quantify observed defects in building structures, components, equipment, and external elements, and to provide recommendations on remedial repairs and replacements.

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# Capital Requirements

## Building Assessment Report

The result indicated the urgent need for us to address the following capital improvements and repairs:

Our main roof is showing signs of aging and repair costs are estimated at \$98K. If this is not addressed immediately the entire roof system will need to be replaced in the near future at an estimated cost of \$225K

Examples of additional major capital requirements include:

- Replacement of the Ontario hydro pole near the rectory parking with related excavation and main cable replacement in rectory basement
- Back-up power for the sump pump put an end to flooding of the basement
- Plumbing systems: installation of a back-flow preventer into the incoming domestic water main
- Mechanical Systems: gradual replacement of radiators, unit heaters and baseboard heaters in the Church and
- Localized piping repairs: gradual replacement of rusting storm and sanitary piping
- Door systems repairs: the accessibility handicap doors to the Church need to be replaced
- Exterior lighting systems: There is a safety requirement that lighting be installed in the parking area

These major capital costs are estimated at \$450 over next three years

# How Can You Help

## For on-going operational support

You are well aware how everything has “gone up in price. This is why we ask you to carefully consider increasing your donation in the Sunday Collection, keeping in mind that a **20% increase is needed**.

What would a 20% increase mean for you? If you currently give \$100 a month, could you make that \$120? Our target is an additional \$2.5K per month or \$580 per week.

Please continue using the regular methods of donating: Sunday envelopes, write a monthly cheque, use e-transfers, PAD or Canada Helps. See a complete list at the end of this document.

We are developing a method to encourage visitors and occasional attendees to donate via QR codes in the pews.



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# How Can You Help

## For capital support

Capital projects require a significant and additional commitment, if this is something you can consider. Let's start with the numbers: **\$450K over 3 years** works out to approximately \$13K a month over 3 years or about \$3K each week. We should each ask ourselves if we are doing our share. Some truly cannot afford to contribute more financially, this we understand. But no amount is too small. We also realize that "one time" large donations are required. If you can see your way to making a larger donation here are ways to consider doing it:

- make a pledge to give a certain amount each month for 12 months:
- make a single donation or monthly donations by cheque, e-transfer, Canada Helps;
- consider donating securities. This is a very tax-effective way to donate if the securities have made capital gains.

There is more information at the end of this document.

In addition, individuals and ministries are encouraged to help achieve our objectives by organizing fundraising events.

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# Sustaining Our Parish

Fortunately for St Basil's we had some good years financially in the not too distant past when we were able to build a reserve fund held at the Archdiocese which paid us interest on our deposit.

However, since 2016 we have operated at an average annual deficit of \$19.5K and had to withdraw money from our reserve to cover the annual deficits. Our reserve has been dwindling and our annual interest revenue earnings has also reduced.

The present state of operations of the Parish is not sustainable.

## **How will we sustain our Parish?**

In the past we have had fund-raising campaigns for special projects. We have to stop thinking about fund-raising campaigns and think about ongoing development and sustainability. We need a paradigm shift. We have to change the way we think about giving.

The idea of being generous and of sustainability is not a new thing. Jesus survived by people giving him money. He relied on the generosity of his followers. Being generous is a biblical reality, a part of our spirituality. We wouldn't exist as a parish if it weren't for generosity that allowed ministry and outreach to take place. Being generous enriches us. It is a source of sustainability that helps us be better people.

St Basil's will rise to the occasion.

# Intentional Giving

## Beneficial Effects

Henri J.M.Nouwen, one of the great spiritual authors of the 20th century, explains in his book, [A Spirituality of Fundraising](#):

- When we intentionally give to support God's work, our giving becomes **spiritual practice**
- Our offering reflects **trust in God** and expresses our **love for our neighbour**
- Giving financially to the Mission of the Church has always been an important element of **living our faith** today
- Giving is one way of remembering that what we have actually belongs to God and is **entrusted to our care**
- You don't have to be wealthy to **make a difference**
- Reflecting on how we give, our feelings about giving, and our motivation for giving can **deepen our spirituality**
- Your donation should be **intentional**, not an afterthought like a tip added for the waiter when dining out. Nor should it be transactional like buying a pair of shoes
- The spiritual practice of intentional giving will change us over time. **Our ideas of abundance will grow, our understanding of value will be transformed, and we will become more thankful and in turn more generous with what we have**
- Your prayers, active involvement and generous donations will have a profound impact on our Parish.

As St Paul wrote to the Philippians: "Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that accumulates to your account."  
(Philippians 4:17) \*(Harnessing the wealth of our gifts)\*

# Thanking Donors

- Your prayers, active involvement and generous donations will have a profound impact on our Parish
- Every donation is always gratefully acknowledged and CRA charitable donation receipts will be issued
- Your donation will remain completely confidential unless you direct otherwise
- Our goals are ambitious
- With your continued prayers and help I am confident that we can achieve them



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# Ways of Giving

1. Sunday Envelopes: Available from Parish Office; envelopes for Sunday offering and special collections.
2. e-transfers to St Basil's : [stbasilsparish@gmail.com](mailto:stbasilsparish@gmail.com)
3. Preauthorized Monthly Donations (PAD)
4. Canada Helps: on-line at [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org) (search under St Basil's Parish, Ottawa, Ontario or using the QR Code)
5. Gift in the form of cheque(s) payable to St. Basils Parish
6. Securities/ Stocks: Please contact the Parish Office: 613-729-5149 for further details on how to make this gift. This is a very tax efficient way to use securities which have large capital gains
7. Pledges: Your donation can be pledged over time, e.g. \$400 a month for 1 year comes to \$4,800 (See Appendix C - Pledge Form)
8. Estate Planning: include St Basils Parish in your estate planning. Clause in will or added by codicil: I give, devise, and bequeath the sum of \$.....to St Basil's Parish, Ottawa, to be used in the administration of the pastoral activities of the parish.



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CharityProfile | Donate Online**

[www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org)

Notes re Income Tax implications: You get a federal tax credit of 15% on the first \$200 of annual charitable donations and the rate jumps to 29% for cumulative above \$200 . So if your donations amount to \$4,000 you get 15% credit on the first \$200 (\$30.) and 29% on the remaining \$3,800 . A total credit of \$1132. You receive similar credit on provincial taxes. Altogether it amounts to about 40 percent credit for donations above \$200.

# Appendix A - A Short History

## St. Basil's Parish

The story of St. Basil's can be told in many voices – ordained, religious, lay, Latin, English, old, young, voices of those new to Canada and now of those who came first.

We have a long history of innovation, authenticity of liturgical practices and social action. Pope Benedict VI wrote that people must have a sense of their time and place in order to praise the Creator.

Former pastor and scholar Father Corbin Eddy believed that a true church has three parts. Firstly, it must be orthodox: that is, be in line with liturgical traditions. Second, it must be involved with the wider world through social justice. Third, it must be beautiful to reflect God's absolute beauty. St. Basil's and its people have proven over many decades that our sacred space is a true church.

The parish had its inception in 1955, when Ottawa's suburbs spread west out past Carling Ave. To meet the needs of this growing population, the Archbishop announced the establishment of the new parish of St. Andrew Corsini and it was to be staffed by the Carmelites. It would soon be known by its more affectionate name of St. Nepean because it was in that high school that the first Masses were held.

In January 1958, with the arrival of the Basilians, the name of the parish was changed to St. Basil. It would remain a Basilian parish until their departure from Ottawa in the summer of 1992 when the parish began to be staffed by priests of the Ottawa diocese. But this time, a change of priests did not mean a change in name, mission or traditions.

# Appendix A - A Short History

A list of the pastors includes Germain Henry (O. Carm.), Basilians John Ruth, George Silvester, John Ruth (again), Gerry Gregoire, James Rent, John Reddy, Kevin Casperson, Bill Riegel and Diocesan priests Corbin Eddy, Jeff Archambeault, Bosco Wong, Dan Hawkins, Ross Finley and Daryold Winkler. All have understood the transformation called for under Vatican II and enabled the changes. The acceptance of the current synodal process is a continuing reflection of our philosophy of inclusion and of making the tent bigger.

Maintaining the physical presence of a sacred space requires ongoing care and devotion. There have been many stewardship projects over the years that have had this goal and the parish has always responded enthusiastically.

In the 1960s, the mortgage was paid off but to achieve that goal many crucial repairs had been put on hold for years. This could not continue. In March 1970, people responded to the call. In the Spring of 1986, repairs were again becoming crucial and there was another successful campaign called “Thirty Years – Towards Community.”

By April 1990, needs were apparent and again the parish responded positively to the next major renovation campaign. In January 2001, the Open Doors Project was officially launched and surpassed its goals. This generosity of spirit, talents and resources is part of our long tradition.

# Appendix A - A Short History

In the fall of 1997, St. Basil's was named one of Canada's Future Faith churches. This was a huge honour that acknowledged that we, as a community, had a recognized tradition of putting faith into action. St. Basil's has always been strong on social justice issues. In 1973, it worked collaboratively with other local churches to purchase The Big Red Ox, a tractor, for use in a poor African country and did so again in 1983. In 1979, parishioner and Ottawa Mayor Marion Dewar initiated Project 4,000 which had a goal to bring in 4,000 people from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. This was a profound success.

We have always stepped up to working with and often sponsoring refugee families beginning with Hungarians in the late 1950s, to many from Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, then Africa and now to people from Syria.

Since the 1960s the parish has operated a food cupboard which for many years included clothing and furniture. It is a founding member of the Westend Interfaith Social Action Group. It is an active member of the Multifaith Housing Initiative and the Carlington Community Chaplaincy among other groups. Socializing has also been important. Originally it was the Holy Name Society and the Ladies Guild who took the lead on activities as varied as bazaars, curling, sleigh drives to St. Patrick's Day parties. That has now evolved into the events organized by the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Women's League.

(Contributed by Catherine Casserly, Parish Historian)

# Appendix B - Our Mission Statement

**Seven critical steps, seven fundamental reason to give, and seven timeless principles of our journey together in hope**

We of St. Basil's Parish strive to be:

***1. A welcoming community of Christian believers***

To be welcoming requires a commitment to keep our doors open and the roof above our heads.

***2. Empowered by the Spirit and challenged and nourished by the Word of God***

Being attentive to the word of God requires meaningful liturgy and ways to connect with the fundamentals of Christian commitment.

***3. Discerning together the way of Jesus***

St Basil's is a community – we are not alone in our individual journeys of faith.

***4. Supporting and nurturing one another in love***

We do this by welcoming the stranger and celebrating the gifts of all those who joined this community decades ago

***5. Compassionately committed to the poor and oppressed***

Our commitment to social justice is evidence of our essential Catholic identity - “whatsoever we do ...”

***6. Harnessing the wealth of our goods***

And this is the purpose of this appeal. ALL of these commitments need funding. In supporting our operation as well as our capital requirements ensures that our journey in hope will continue.

***7. In joyful celebration, Rich in a heritage built by laity and Basilians –***

Our parish was built by a religious congregation. We have inherited a legacy of commitment to a lasting future.

To understand that legacy, we invite you look at Appendix A, which offers an overview of our parish, a community whose roots are found in the early days of a transformation of the Catholic experience around the world – the Second Vatican Council....

# Appendix C - Pledge Form

## For Ongoing Operational Support:

Keeping in mind 20% target, I will increase

my weekly donation to \$ \_\_\_\_\_ X 52 weeks =

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year or

my monthly donation to \$ \_\_\_\_\_ X 12 months =

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year

## For Capital Support:

I will make (please check one of the following options)

- 1 year commitment
- 2 year commitment
- 3 year commitment
- On-going annual commitment

in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per year to be donated

- Weekly starting \_\_\_\_\_
- Monthly starting \_\_\_\_\_
- Quarterly starting \_\_\_\_\_
- Semi-annually starting \_\_\_\_\_
- Annually starting \_\_\_\_\_

## Under One Roof - Pledge Form Caring For Our Common Future

Mr, Mrs, Ms First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Envelope Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Province \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you! Your support is greatly appreciated!**

**Please return this form to the Parish Office or insert it in your weekly donation envelope.**

**Confidential once completed**