



SAINT JAMES

Catholic Parish

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May 12, 2019
Good Shepherd Sunday

Dear Parishioners,

Today, during this 25th anniversary year of the foundation of our parish, I would like to present to you this year's annual Project Advance Campaign. Project Advance has become the major financial appeal of each parish of our Archdiocese, as well as of the Archdiocese itself. Suffice it to say, excluding regular Sunday collections, it is the biggest annual fundraiser of our parish. Since the inception of our parish in 1994, a whopping one million, four hundred and seventy-two thousand, seven hundred and twenty-eight dollars and nineteen cents, **\$1,472,728.19**, has been raised for the parish. Many parish projects and programs have been financed through your generosity. At the archdiocesan level you will find in your Project Advance brochure a list of the many good works to be sponsored this year.

What is our parish project? It is the construction of a new elementary school and hall/gym, with a state-of-the-art kitchen! Given the cost of a seismic upgrade for the present school the Archdiocese has decided in favour of a new one. Our hope is to double the size of the present school. Soon we will ask your input regarding the various facets of this project. For example, should we include in the new school space for a preschool and a daycare centre? Should we also include space for music rehearsal rooms, including for our choirs? And perhaps space also for a small Catholic public library? In a certain sense, we could envision our new facility as a type of Catholic Cultural Centre. Let us think in terms of a state-of-the-art facility! Will this new facility be financed by St James Parish alone? Of course not! The burden will be shared by the three (3) other parishes involved.

Our parish goal this year is \$75,000. I know because of the well-known generosity of Saint James parishioners that we will easily reach and go beyond it.

May God reward you, each and every one!

Seeking on your behalf the intercession of our powerful patron, protomartyr of the Apostles, Saint James the Greater, I assure you of a remembrance in my Masses and prayers, as I ask a remembrance in yours,

Rev. William F. Ashley
Pastor