



**St. John
the Baptist
Catholic Church**
106 Main Street West
Vermillion • MN • 55085

November 15, 2021

Dear St. John's Parishioners,

Over the months of summer and early fall, our three parishes engaged Building Restoration Corporation (BRC) in Minneapolis for a single start-up cost to do an exterior inspection and minor brick work of each building. BRC specializes in the work of preserving historic buildings. While the levels of the church within eyesight from the ground level needing repair appeared minimal, my concern was more the upper levels that cannot be easily seen. This concern became heightened when a September storm resulted in a broken brick from the church that was found on the ground. From our inspection, we learned the brick came from the upper and less visible level of the church building.

The broken brick was symptomatic of work needing to be done soon to preserve the integrity of our beautiful church building, and before further deterioration potentially resulting in serious damage of the interior of the building. With my letter you will find pictures that show the current condition of the building and highlight the work needing to be done in the spring and summer months of 2022. In addition to the brick and metal repair, the entire exterior would be cleaned and sealed, including areas that have stained over time. At the same time we were evaluating the church building, the deterioration of the asphalt around the school has been examined. It has been determined the road between the school and convent will need repair for the safety of all using these areas.

The reason for my writing to you today is to make you aware of these extraordinary needs and to make a financial appeal beyond your regular Sunday collection that is needed to pay annual operating expenses. Your financial support for the exterior church renovation and asphalt work is a special appeal. At this time, the estimated cost to do the necessary repairs is \$400,000.

As a parish, we currently have 238 registered households. If every household could make a \$1,700 gift, then we would reach and surpass our goal. I realize that for some this dollar figure will be a stretch, but others can do this and more. The key is everyone's participation at a level of their own personal generosity. I also hope that for some the timing of this appeal may be advantageous as it coincides with year-end giving for tax purposes. In the event we do not

reach our goal, or costs exceed funds raised, then we will need to explore the possibility of a loan. I encourage you to do what you can as an act of thanksgiving for the many blessings you have received from God to now help preserve our church building for generations to come.

Once you decide your gift to this special appeal that we are calling, "Brick By Brick," please return it in a plain envelope and either place it in the Sunday collection, or mail it to the parish office. All checks should be payable to "St. John's." Any and all gifts to this special appeal are much appreciated, and I hope that you can help to invite others with family ties to St. John's who may have moved away to learn more about the church exterior restoration and consider supporting it. Pictures of the work needing to be done are also on our website – <https://stjohnsvermillion.com> – along with the opportunity for electronic donations.

Just like the founding families who have gone before us and built what we enjoy today, I believe that together we can do this! If you have any questions or concerns, know that you are always welcome to contact me.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Mike Tix". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Father Mike Tix
Parochial Administrator



Rusted through and corrosion on the cross, front of church



White sheet metal, to repair & repaint



Sheet metal layers exposed over the years, needs caulk, sealer to weatherproof



White sheet metal, church front, to patch & repaint



Brick repair: You can clearly see hairline cracks in the masonry, and the backup wall is wet – moisture infiltration



Standing water, showing the cap is not properly shedding water, leads to future corrosion & leaks



Inside layer, brick deterioration



Some mortar joints to be cut out and then bad brick replaced



Loose or rusted sheet metal screws to be replaced on steeple



Caulking at stone head joints should be cut out & replaced



Moisture has been getting into the backup bricks for years, leading to premature deterioration of exterior face brick



A lot of brick taken from this area were either hand pulled out or crumbled when cutting mortar joints