

Father's Notes

March 23, 2025

This past weekend, Father Ben and I spoke at the Masses at St. Philomena about our status on the Annual Catholic Appeal campaign which began last May. Just as a reminder, the Annual Catholic Appeal funds many ministries that so many of us, or our fellow parishioners, benefit from—ministries our individual parishes cannot sufficiently maintain on their own. Thus, our combined contributions as parishes (and individuals within the parishes), enable us to support and have access to these services, such as CYO camps, Catholic ministries at our state universities, and ministries to those who are imprisoned... but much, much more.

To fund these ministries, each parish in the archdiocese is assessed a portion. This would have been presented to the parishioners back in May, asking for your contribution. So, as shown on our respective parish websites (which thanks to the generous efforts of parishioners have been significantly updated and improved!), you'll see the numbers, where we currently stand: St. Thomas' assessment amount is \$43,884. The amount raised at this point is \$37,411. Our remaining amount due is \$6,473. St. Philomena's assessment amount is \$84,569. The amount raised at this point is \$64,573. Our remaining amount due is \$19,996.

I want to express my gratitude to the Hispanic Community at each parish which has hosted a food sale, with the money collected being donated toward our deficits. At St. Philomena, our Hispanic community contributed \$5000, which came from their food sale in December. At St. Thomas, this past weekend, a food sale took place, and thus the amounts collected are not yet determined (I trust it reduced our amount owed). Again, thank you for the delicious food (!), and thank you for supporting our cause.

Each year, while every parish would hope for 100% response from registered families, most find that roughly 35% of parishioners respond. At St. Thomas, only 11% have responded thus far. And at St. Philomena, only 6% have responded.

The window of time in which to reach our assessments concludes in April. At that time, the archdiocese will withdraw that remaining amount from our respective parish accounts. Therefore, as a final push to try and make up the remaining amount, at St. Philomena we will have a second collection in the two upcoming weekends (March 22/23 and March 29/30).

Our belief and hope is that in those two weekends, in the second collections, if every adult can give somewhere between \$20 and \$40, we can eliminate the remaining shortfall, and in doing so, contribute toward important ministries that strengthen our Christian response in Western Washington. Please prayerfully consider contributing and thank you for the ways you are generous. If you have any questions or would find it helpful to discuss, please reach out to us.



Father Todd O. Strange (*Pastor*)

+ St. Philomena Parish & School (*Des Moines, WA*)

+ St. Thomas Parish (*Tukwila, WA*)