

December 2, 2023

An open letter to all St Ignatius Parishioners from your Parish Finance Council

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

We are in the final stages of closing our books and finalizing our financial statements for the year ended June 30, 2023 with our external accountants. The results are concerning and our financial situation is serious. You have already heard from Fr. Frank regarding our accumulating deficit and concerns over financial viability, but now with the books almost closed and financial statements being prepared, we want to share with you the concerning factors and trends that we see in the numbers. The numbers always tell a story – unfortunately ours is not a pleasant read.

The year ended June 30, 2023 was our first full post-Covid year, but we are still feeling the financial stress and fallout from two years of Covid State of Emergency / Lockdown from March 20, 2020 to March 15, 2022 which impacted our fiscal years 2020, 2021 and 2022. During the Covid impacted years, our core collections (Regular Offertory, and Christmas and Easter) dropped significantly and currently remain well below pre-Covid levels. Through those years, we managed to maintain our core operating costs but they have increased post-Covid driven to a large extent by operating and maintenance costs associated with an aging facility.

Here are the key “stories” we want you to be aware of:

- Our core collections for the year ended 2023 were \$101,000 less than 2019, our last full pre-Covid year.
- In the bigger picture, if we compare our core collections through the three Covid impacted years to the average of our last three pre-Covid years (2017 – 2019), we lost \$437,000 in core collections, and, as noted, we remained significantly behind in 2023.
- On the cost side, we managed to hold our core operating costs essentially flat through the Covid impacted years.
- The Parish has not had a surplus since the 2018 fiscal year. 2019, our last full pre-Covid year, incurred a small deficit but since then, annual deficits have averaged \$150,000.
- For the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 the Parish incurred a deficit of \$155,000.
- In addition, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 our School incurred a deficit of \$167,000. Although the School was able to finance this deficit from their own resources this year, the Parish is ultimately responsible should the School get into a position where it cannot cover its own deficits.
- Our Accumulated Parish Deficit at June 30, 2023 was \$287,000 which means our liabilities exceed our assets and we are not in a position to support future operations without a significant recovery in our core collections.
- Core collections 4 months into the current fiscal year are trending slightly upward. If this trend holds for the year as we expect it will, our projected 2024 deficit will be in the \$100,000 range. It is also worth noting that the expected core collections for fiscal 2024 will still be well below the average core collections for the 2017 through 2019 pre-Covid years.

The financial situation at St. Ignatius Parish is serious. The loss of over \$400,000 in core collections during Covid, a smaller than anticipated core collections recovery in 2023, and 2024 projected core collections revenue that will still be well below the average of our last three pre-Covid years, all raise significant concerns as to the ongoing financial viability of our Parish.

We need your help! Please get your friends and family who have not yet returned to church post-Covid to join you for Mass next weekend. In addition, if you are not yet on our PAC or PayPal donation programs, please consider joining. We are pleased to announce that we have recently added a credit card option to the PAC form. This is a great opportunity for you to support the Parish in a very convenient way. In addition, we will soon be accepting credit and debit donations by machine before and after Masses! Check out our website for how to take advantage of these new donation options.

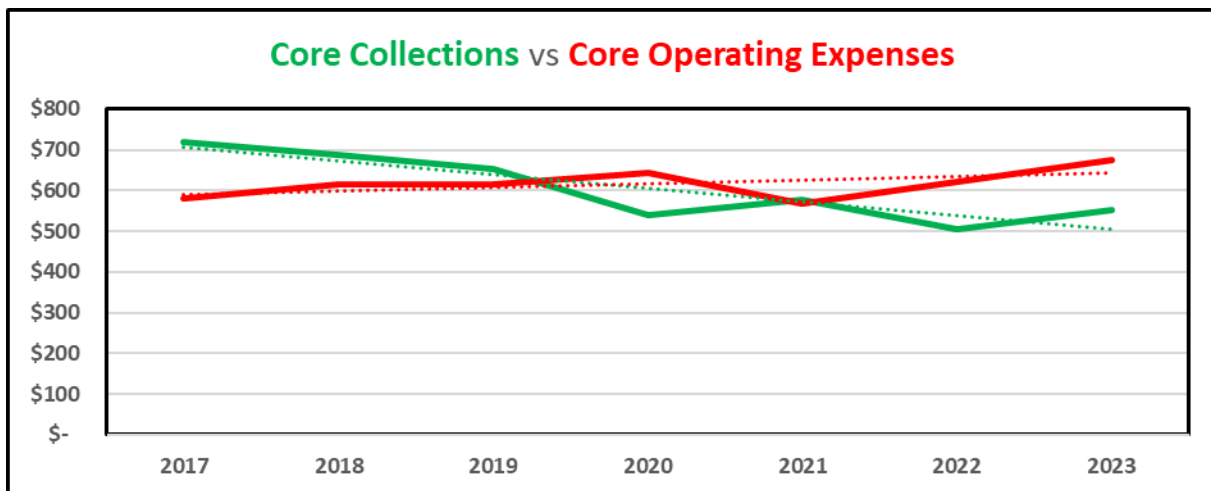
We ask that you prayerfully reflect on your on-going financial contributions – an increase to your weekly contribution and an additional Christmas donation to the Parish will help us financially recover and continue the mission and ministries of the St. Ignatius community. Remember your contributions on or prior to December 31 will provide you a tax-deductible donation for 2023.

Finally, we look forward to seeing you at our Annual General Meeting on December 14 and we welcome your suggestions about additional ways we could eliminate the deficit.

Respectfully submitted,

**St Ignatius Parish Finance Council**

PS If you have comments, questions or suggestions, we would love to hear from you. Please direct your e-mails to [operations@stignatius.ca](mailto:operations@stignatius.ca) or call or text Bob at (431) 554 1504 during office hours.



<b>NOTE:</b>								
<b>Core Collections</b> are total regular Offertory, and Christmas and Easter Collections.								
<b>Core Operating Expenses</b> do <u>not</u> include the Diocesan Assessment, SGG, School Bursaries, School Support, or Amortization.								