

Devoting Support ^{to our}

FAITH

Community

STAYING CONNECTED

God's work continues during
the COVID-19 pandemic.

INSIDE

How COVID-19 has
impacted our parish

PLUS

We need you! All the
ways you can be part
of our parish!



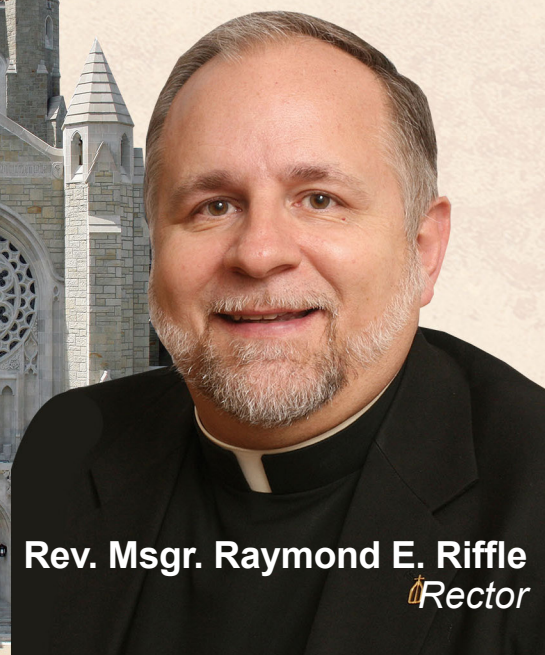
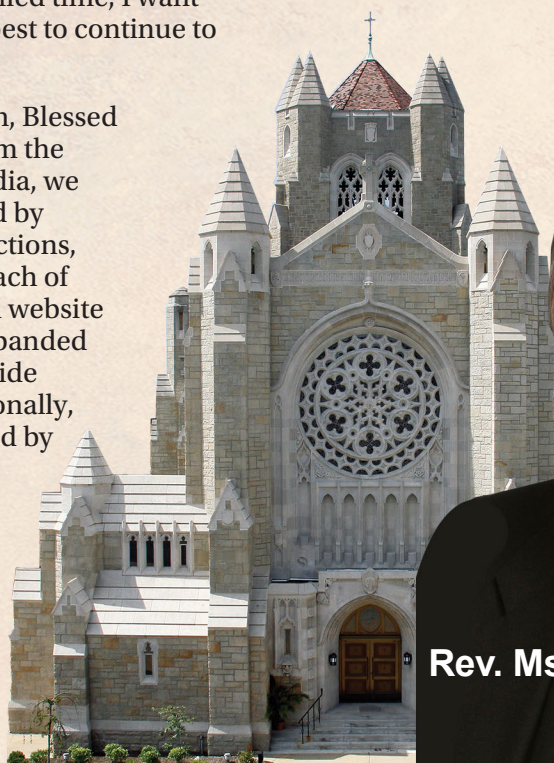


Help us stay connected to you! PLEASE take a moment to fill out our parish survey online:
DioceseofGreensburg.org/BlessedSacrament

Staying Connected During COVID-19

The parish staff and I have been keeping you, the parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish, in our prayers during this pandemic. I cannot even imagine the difficulties you must be facing, balancing family, job, school and everything else that has been made more complicated by COVID-19. During this stress-filled time, I want you to know that our parish has tried our very best to continue to care for your spiritual and material needs.

When our church building closed in mid-March, Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish began to live stream the Holy Mass every single day. Through social media, we attempted to keep you informed and connected by providing devotions, Bible study, spiritual reflections, faith formation and informational updates to each of you. This has been accomplished via our parish website and through our YouTube Channel. We also expanded the use of our Cathedral Facebook page to provide prayer and information on a daily basis. Additionally, we developed a parish app which can be utilized by getting on our parish website and clicking on the box labeled parish app. Our parish staff conducted a parish phone outreach especially to the elderly and homebound. Also, once our church building opened, we created a Ministry of Hospitality and are working to create volunteer cleaning crews to sanitize the church and restrooms after each use.



Rev. Msgr. Raymond E. Riffle
Rector

Ways You Can Give



**Blessed Sacrament
 Cathedral Parish**
 300 N. Main St.
 Greensburg, PA 15601



**10 AM-noon
 and 1 PM-3 PM**
Monday-Friday



**OSVhub.com/Blessed-
 Sacrament-Cathedral/Funds**

Sadly, as you can imagine, the virus has greatly impacted every form of stewardship. If you are willing to give of your time and talent to help those in need, please look for our ministry listings and contact us to volunteer. Even though we cannot gather as we normally would, this may be an especially good time to consider a ministry in our parish so that when we do begin to gather, you will have an idea of how you want to serve our community of faith.

Additionally, as you might imagine, your continued financial support during this difficult time will help our parish to maintain and to continue God's work. And so, with great sensitivity to whatever your circumstances might be, I humbly ask, if you are able, that you consider an increase of your weekly or monthly offertory. You can make that commitment online or by sending those donations directly to the parish via U.S. Mail or by visiting our website for online offertory.

COVID-19 and its Impact on our Faith Community

Our parish offertory has remained strong, primarily due to the generosity of you, our parishioners who kept sending in those cards and letters with your weekly donations. This effort was greatly assisted by a noticeable increase in our online giving and a record-breaking Diocesan Lenten Appeal.



Our parish and particularly our parish organizations, like the Bethlehem Project, suffered from the loss of fundraising monies. As you are aware, this past spring and summer, all in-person fundraising events had to be cancelled. Moreover, this fall it appears that all fundraisers and gatherings outside of Mass will be conducted virtually, including our very popular Octoberfest. We are even now working with our Pastoral Council to determine the best way to expand our connection to you, the parishioners, and to promote the Mission of Jesus Christ in all we do.



Parish Statistics



Registered Households



2018: 1,591
2019: 1,594
2020: 1,546

Single Member Households



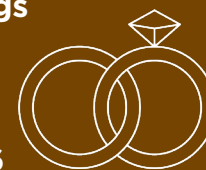
461

Baptisms



2018: 28
2019: 30
2020: 17

Weddings



2018: 18
2019: 15
2020: 16

Funerals



2018: 63
2019: 41
2020: 50

Parish Financials

	2018	2019	2020
Offertory	\$ 870,096	\$ 819,007	\$ 785,435
Other Ordinary Income <i>(monthly collections, votive candles)</i>	8,703	6,137	5,827
Extraordinary Income <i>(bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)</i>	210,080	186,481	149,926
Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund	97,665	97,363	125,831
Other Non-Assessable Income <i>(The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements, and PPP Loan)</i>	57,731	79,813	132,195
Special Collections	104,786	97,803	97,871
Total Income	\$ 1,349,060	\$ 1,286,604	\$ 1,297,085
Expenses			
Administration	\$ 291,150	\$ 291,396	\$ 260,157
Church	136,582	121,209	110,892
Rectory	23,318	22,487	54,319
Education and Ministry	194,073	173,293	150,000
General Expenses	382,812	366,681	356,277
Special Collections	105,792	97,788	83,323
Extraordinary Expenses	71,349	141,106	78,921
Total Expenditures	1,205,076	1,213,959	1,093,890
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 143,984	\$ 72,645	\$ 203,195

Capital Improvements

Over the last three years, we have completely refreshed our office computers. We have replaced the high-powered incandescent lighting in the Cathedral rectory and offices with LED lighting. We did some painting in the rectory and have replaced the rectory boiler.

Moreover, as a result of a successful Diocesan Lenten Appeal, we are preparing to replace the roof on the Formation Center, which itself was also recently repaired and refurbished, giving us much needed meeting space. This fall we will replace the original 1986 rectory air conditioning system. It is hard to believe that our Church restoration took place about 10 years ago. That said, we must now also replace the 16 main altar floodlights in the Church because the lightbulbs are no longer made. These repairs and fixes have all been necessary, and as you might imagine, require a great deal of capital to accomplish.

Ministries at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral

Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Parish encourages its parishioners to participate in our liturgical, social or music ministries. If you are interested, please contact the parish office.

Altar Server

Altar servers assist the priest in preparing for Mass.

Religious Formation Leaders and Youth Ministry Leaders

These individuals assist in forming the next generation of Christ's Disciples.

Music Ministry

Choirs and cantors provide musical support of full and active participation in the liturgy.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Parishioners assist the priest in distributing the Eucharist at Mass.

Homebound Ministry

Ministers of Holy Communion to the homebound take the Eucharist to the homes of parishioners who cannot attend Mass to keep them renewed by the holy Eucharist and united with their parish.

Greeters

Greeters welcome Parishioners to our faith community.

Lectors

Lectors proclaim the word of God during Mass or at other liturgical functions. Lectors devote time to preparation and understanding of sacred Scripture.

St. Vincent de Paul Society

Women and men join together to offer service to those who are in need and suffering. The Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Conference of St. Vincent de Paul focuses on service projects throughout the year.

Ushers

Ushers take up the offertory and distribute bulletins after Mass. They also assist as needed with emergencies and other concerns.

Prayer Chain

The prayer chain offers prayers for those who send in requests.

Bethlehem Project

The Bethlehem Project, founded in 1998, provides assistance to those in our community who are in need of permanent housing or emergency lodging.

Ministry of Care

These volunteers provide pastoral care to the sick and homebound of the parish. The ministers take the Eucharist to the sick where they are at home, a personal care home or a nursing home.

Money Counters

These individuals assist in counting collections.

Bereavement Support

Our parish offers a grief support program that meets the second and fourth Tuesday each month. This program is an opportunity for those in sorrow to join others for mutual support.