

December 18, 2020

Dear Fellow Immaculate Heart of Mary Parishioners and Friends:

Our dear church is without heat. The aged boiler has finally given out. The heating system in the church is a gas fired boiler feeding steam to the radiators that in turn heat the church. We are exploring several options to bring heat back to our church including the repair of the existing boiler and piping (approximately \$22,000), the replacement of the boiler and repair of the exiting piping (approximately \$50,000), or the replacement of the existing boiler with a hot air furnace system (approximately \$45,000 to \$60,000).

We are a small church with very limited income so it is clear that any of these options will have a big impact on our budget for several years to come.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church has served the surrounding neighborhood for over 130 years. Old St. Mary's Parish was founded in 1887 in what was then the city of Albina, Oregon. A church was built on the site of the current church that year and served the parish until it was moved around the corner to what is now the parking lot where it was modified and used as a school. The current church building was constructed in 1890.

The Immaculate Heart parish community has grown and changed as the demographics of the surrounding community has grown and changed. The original parish was founded by mostly those of German and Irish descent. During the 1940's and 1950's the parish welcomed the many African Americans, many of whom came to Portland to work in the shipyards as part of the WWII war effort. Today the parish is truly a multi-cultural parish and serves a community with members from Europe, Asia, Africa as well as African-American, Asian-American, and South & European Americans.

The church building itself, designated as a historic structure by the City of Portland, is a fine example of Victorian Gothic Revival Architecture reminiscent of English and French Gothic cathedrals. The building is a wooden structure. The exterior is entirely clad in galvanized metal panels mimicking brick and stone. Most of this metal cladding is original.

We are asking our community and friends to help us fund the needed heating upgrades by donating whatever amount you can. Tax-deductible donations can be made payable to Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Heating Repair Fund at 2926 North Williams Avenue, Portland OR 97227.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Fr. Paulinas Mangesho, Pastor



Francis McBride, Parishioner