

June 10/11, 2023

Good Evening/Morning Your Grace, Fr. Anthony & Fellow Parishioners

We welcome you, Your Grace, to our Holy Cross Community and Our Lady of the Rockies – and especially on this weekend when a number of our young people have received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Not so many years ago, many of the faithful within the Archdiocese of Edmonton were faced with a decline in the number of Priests available and the number of men entering the Seminary. Thank you, Your Grace, and to your Team, for sending the Pallottine Priests to us at a time when this shortage necessitated the amalgamation of some Parishes and closure of others.

We feel blessed that these Priests have come to us in our time of need when I'm sure they had no idea what Highway 40 had in store for them, particularly in the winter months (which could be any time from mid to late October to quite possibly late April).

They have become a testimony to the will of the Father and have become a welcome addition to our Parish communities and to our families.

I'm sure all of the Parishes throughout the Archdiocese, as well as our own, have felt the effects of Covid – either in loss of finances, a fewer number of attendees at Masses and a loss of the socialization and comfort that attending Mass affords.

At Holy Cross, we were, perhaps, one of the exceptions to the fallout of the Pandemic. With the exceptional generosity of our Parishioners in their Sunday collections and donations towards special projects, and the financial support from our active Knights of Columbus and Catholic Women's League, we were able to make and complete some much needed and long overdue renovations and upgrades to the Church and Rectory Complex.

The projects completed from March, 2021 to May, 2023 include the following:

- a) New flooring and painting in the kitchen and hall
- b) New flooring in the Sacristy
- c) Public washrooms reconfigured for wheelchair accessibility with new flooring and fixtures
- d) New flooring in the Rectory main bathroom with new fixtures
- e) Mechanism for automatic main doors installed
- f) Outside lighting upgrade and security cameras installed
- g) New flooring in Rectory bedrooms and laundry room installed
- h) Additional roof vents in the Church proper, garage and Rectory installed
- i) New hot water tank installed
- j) Re-staining the logs (outside) and resurfacing the parking lot
- k) New lighting installed in the offices and Rectory.

In addition to the renovations and upgrades, we are extremely fortunate to keep on top of our monthly bills, including quarterly payments of the Cathedraticum and overreaching our quota for Together We Serve.

These were also made possible due to the fact that all day-to-day activities associated with Parish life are done completely by volunteers, i.e.,

Cleaning Teams

Office Personnel

Housekeeping

Yard Maintenance

Snow Removal

Daily Maintenance Checks

Most of the renovations are upgrades to the initial construction which happened in the mid 70's. Thank you one and all for your tremendous generosity.

Again, I thank you Your Grace, for being with us this weekend, to Confirm our young people, and to celebrate the Eucharist.

God bless you and safe journey!