

ONGOING IMPROVEMENTS TO SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PARISH **FROM AUGUST 2022 THROUGH APRIL 2024**

1. We have completed the renovation of our daily Mass chapel and had it officially named “The Oratory of the Immaculate Heart,” saving heating and cooling costs by transferring from the main Church.
2. We have secured a \$250,000 grant from the Colorado Historical State Fund to put in a new roof over the main Church and to replace eroding brick around the entire property.
3. We secured a grant with the Colorado Energy Outreach coalition in order to transition all light bulbs to LED, brighten the interior of the main church and added more security lighting around the property while also adding weather sealing to all windows and doors from temperature intrusion from the outside.
4. Our Marian Garden has been completely renovated and is used regularly for taco sales and ministry family gatherings. We also redirected all roof rainwater and snow accumulation away from the foundation of the building and installed new sod and a new sprinkler system.
5. We replaced 18 antiquated, non-fire-rated doors and their frames. Some of the new fire rated doors include windows for some of the religious education classrooms as well as for my personal office.
6. We rekeyed the entire property, moving from 120 different keys down to 6, with 1 master key. There are different keys for each section of the property and access to each location has been limited appropriately.
7. We replaced almost all of our old and broken office furniture with new or newer, better-quality furniture for everyone.
8. We have discarded thousands of pounds of old filing cabinets as well as old files, old furniture, and garbage—recycling them where possible—and removing them from the property as necessary.
9. Several boxes of historical artifacts have been brought to the AOD Archives for preservation—we are the oldest church property still standing in the Archdiocese of Denver.
10. All the air ducts of all the buildings have been professionally cleaned for the first time since their installation—creating a dramatic improvement in air quality for everyone that shares this space.
11. Nest thermostats were installed in six different locations to help manage and lower overall energy costs.
12. The grassy areas surrounding the church and parking lot are being re-landscaped to eliminate water use.
13. We are using the Archdiocese of Denver’s online giving platform with an app and credit card reader to receive donations online, to sell tacos, and to help with other fundraisers.
14. We have all new, internet-based telephones, updated and improved WIFI system, and an upgraded and updated system of 42 cameras with backup video recording throughout our buildings inside and out—with cameras in all Religious Education classrooms.
15. All of our Religious Education catechists and volunteers are now Safe Environment-certified and have had background checks.
16. Our Religious Education program has transitioned to a two-year program, requiring parents to receive formation as well as their kids. Our RE parents and their kids begin our RE classes every week with Mass during this year of Eucharistic Revival. Our RE families also attend a family weekend retreat every year.
17. We are working with *Familias Virtuosas* to provide presentations to parents every Tuesday night while inviting anyone from the parish to join as well—covering topics on the faith, communication, addiction, mental health, prayer, etc.
18. We have transitioned to Parish-Soft & Gabriel-Soft software to register families and track donors with over 400 registered families.
19. Our parish Archbishop Catholic Appeal collections went from less than \$4,000 per year for over three years in a row to over \$14,000 in 2023.
20. We have consolidated our credit card and bank accounts to just one bank and one credit card.
21. We successfully passed our Archdiocese of Denver audit. The auditor stated that in her “25+ years of work, she has never seen such a dramatic improvement over such a short period of time.” Possibly for the first time in many decades, Sacred Heart is no longer designated a “high risk” parish and now is considered “low-moderate risk” with this last audit. *Your donations are safe with us!*

22. The parish website has been completely revamped, making homilies, bulletins, flocknote and other community resources available online.
23. We have added several masses in Spanish, and we now have daily Mass available in Spanish from Tuesday to Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in our daily mass chapel of The Immaculate Heart.
24. We now offer our own Quinceañera formation for the girls, with their parents, by one of our catechists; along with masses available to them in our Church to celebrate this important cultural event.
25. I signed a one-year contract with COMUNIO and created a small leadership team to begin tackling how to reach out to the Gen-Z and Millennial American population that live in the parish boundaries but are not Catholic or religious in any way.
26. We have repaired the entire property to make it much more safe in the event of a fire, fulfilling the long list from the Fire Department's Order to Comply Letter. *You and your children are safer on our property than ever before!*
27. We now have all four, insulated, garage doors working with 4 parking spaces for staff to park indoors.
28. We now also have new exterior LED lighting all around the property as well as video surveillance signs.
29. We now have a new towing company contract for unauthorized parked vehicles in our parking lot and garage driveway.
30. We have upgraded all our old kitchen appliances in the parish hall kitchen with brand new, modern ones (gas stove, 2 new refrigerators, microwave/convection oven & a Vitamix to make our Mexican salsas!)—that are all energy efficient and much safer to operate.
31. We are actively working with *Fidelis Catholic Credit Union* to open a branch on our parish property in 2024 to provide Catholic, personal banking options for our parishioners—focusing on helping many get out of predatory loans of 20% and higher so as to access lower interest rates on their vehicles and homes as well as to help them create or improve their credit history. In addition, *Fidelis* will be paying the parish \$700 a month to rent the space.
32. We installed a brand new Bose digital sound system in the church affording us 4 usable microphones, plus the ambo mic, and a beautiful, modern choir setup and sound control system in the choir loft. There are only 4 small speakers, hardly noticeable, that make for the best sound system the church has ever had in its 144 years of existence and allows the beauty of the church's interior architecture and artwork to stand out more. We also have a new, digital piano in the choir loft that plugs into our sound system.
33. We installed book holders in the back of every pew to make the missalettes and song books more accessible during mass.
34. We were able to get out of a \$350 a month garbage disposal contract with Waste Management and now, with a new company, only pay \$105 a month for the same service, *plus recycling!*
35. We also canceled our Comcast subscription of about \$330 a month for internet, WIFI and telephones and now only pay \$155 a month (with a new company) for internet based phones, and Internet/WIFI at up to 1 Gig. speed with WIFI available throughout the property!
36. We just landed a grant (11/29/2023) for \$47,000 to replace our non-code compliant kitchen stove hood and exhaust with a hood that can extinguish fires and that will be code compliant—making our kitchen safer than ever (it's directly underneath the main church's wooden floor and pews, so we can't have a fire there!)
 - A. Also, the entire ceiling surrounding the kitchen area also now has 5/8th Fire retardant drywall covering every inch of the entire area—over the already existing plaster and wood, original ceiling.
37. We completely removed the old flooring down to the foundation and put in a nice, lasting laminate flooring in our small bookkeeper's office with a fresh paint job and new curtains.
38. Decades of old cables from antiquated phone and internet systems were removed from the façade of the office/rectory facing 28th street, leaving the brick pristine and the building closer to its original appearance.
39. We are currently working with the Archdiocese of Denver real-estate department and a recommended real-estate broker to arrange for the leasing out of our church parking lot for \$40-50,000 per year, leaving a seven year, annually renewed contract that contributed only \$9,600 per year to the parish.