

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

360 Van Zile Road
Brick, New Jersey 08724



Very Rev. Gary Joseph Breton, Rector

August 24, 2024

Dear brothers and sisters,

During the past several weeks, you may have noticed that the temperature in the church building has been slightly inconsistent. We discovered that this is the result of a failed air conditioning unit that cools the south side of the church. This unit has been servicing the church for 30+ years, and has now suddenly reached the end of its life. The estimate we received last week for the purchase and installation of a new unit is approximately \$16,000. It was recommended that we also replace the 30+ year old heating unit that is paired with the air conditioner. The estimate for the heating component is \$11,000.

You may recall that last year, the Parish Council made the decision to proactively replace the asphalt-shingled roof on the parish rectory at the cost of approximately \$12,000. This spring, we also removed from the property two diseased or fallen trees at a total cost of \$3,800.

In short, we are experiencing the effects of aging buildings and the unpredictability of nature. Those of us who are homeowners are familiar with these effects and are probably not surprised that the church is not immune from them. We may wish this were the case, but alas, we are realistic.

The rectory roof and the tree removal projects have been paid for. These projects essentially depleted the Maintenance Reserve Fund we had set aside in the treasury. We are now faced with the need to raise \$16,000 or \$27,000 for this new HVAC project. Not only that, we have to be aware that there are twin air conditioning and heating units that cool and heat the north side of the church, and are just as old as their siblings.

The rectory was built in 1985; the church building was completed in 1993. So, we have two buildings that are over 30 years old. They are beginning to show inevitable signs of aging. Really, the only option that we have is to replace the things that break down inside of them, especially if they are too old to repair (as is the case with the HVAC system).

So, I am asking you today to consider the reality of our parish's building and grounds situation. We cannot and should not ignore or push off these issues to the future. Now is the time to consider how we as members of our parish family are to be good stewards of our buildings and grounds as they age and face natural situations.

Please consider making specific and ongoing donations to the Parish Maintenance Reserve Fund. By building up this fund, we will be able to pay for the immediate HVAC solution and be prepared for future projects that will certainly present themselves in the years to come. We need to shift our focus along these lines and we need to support the parish accordingly.

A donor button titled “Maintenance Reserve” will be added to the online giving platform, and envelopes for specific donations to the Maintenance Reserve Fund will be available at the candle desk. If you use the parish’s envelope system, all donations made using the “Building Fund” envelope will be directed to the maintenance reserve fund. Please give generously as you are able and ensure the viability and the beauty of the parish buildings and grounds for many years to come.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Gary / Breton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Father Gary Joseph Breton