

*St. John the Evangelist  
Parish*

*San Francisco, California*

**“Fixing God’s House”**

**A Parish Five-Year Maintenance Program**

**2018-2023**

*A Special Presentation  
For*

*Parish Organizations*



## “FIXING GOD’S HOUSE”

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church  
19 St. Mary’s Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94112

1893 >>> June 16 >>> 2018

Dear friends and families of Saint John the Evangelist Parish,

With a great sense of deep gratitude, I write these few lines to acknowledge all the hard work and immeasurable sacrifices that all of you as stakeholders and stewards contributed to build, sustain, and continue to take care of the heritage of St. John the Evangelist Parish.

I believe it is providential that we are here together to celebrate this auspicious occasion of the One hundred and twenty fifth anniversary, the “Quasquicentennial” of our Parish of St. John the Evangelist. We reminisce and gratefully remember all our beloved friends and families who came and went leaving behind this legacy for us.

The St. John the Evangelist Church building itself and its pews have been there to support us when we sat down in prayer, or went down on our knees, all through the times of our joys and sorrows, fears and anxieties, excitement and doubts, in good times and in bad. This has been true for those who came and went before us and now we step in and come in the Presence of our healing and nurturing God and Father. We can all say in our hearts, “Lord we are grateful for all you’ve done in our lives and we love You”.

*What shall I return to the Lord, for all His goodness to me Ps.116:12  
what can I offer the Lord for all he has done for me?*

We look forward for the inevitable “tomorrow” to continue to honor the sacrifices of the past and present generations and strive to hand it down to our next generation.

We ask all of our parishioners and friends to review our five-year maintenance plan, to respond to your pastor and parish councils by letting them know what you see as the needs of tomorrow, and to consider a financial pledge so that we may continue our mission as the Church of St. John the Evangelist on St. Mary’s Avenue in the City of St. Francis into the foreseeable future.

We have a working committee set up from among our community brothers and sisters to embark upon this Quasquicentennial Campaign “FIXING GOD’S HOUSE”. This campaign comes as an appeal to all of us, parishioners, friends, family and well wishers of St. John the Evangelist Parish Church. It is an outreach to all people of good will to join our minds and hearts in whatever and every way possible to take on the above mentioned and much needed upgrades. Kindly help keep this legacy of St. John sustainable, active, vibrant and life giving for generations to come!

Yours sincerely,  
Fr. Agnel De Heredia  
Pastor



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## “FIXING GOD’S HOUSE”

**St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church**

**19 St. Mary’s Avenue**

**San Francisco, CA 94112**

**Yesterday >>> Today >>> Tomorrow**

In 1865, St. John’s was instituted as a mission parish along Old Mission Road, and eventually in 1889, occupied the vacated St. Mary’s College area. On June 17, 1893 Archbishop Patrick W. Riordan established St. John the Evangelist as an independent parish appointing Father Peter Brady to serve as our first pastor. It is the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that establishment as a full parish that we celebrate this year.

There have been eleven Pastors and two Administrators serving St. John’s as follows:

Rev. Peter D. Brady	1893-1911
Rev. William E. Lyons	1911-1934
Rev. Timothy P. Moynihan	1934-1936
Rev. John J. Hunt	1936-1961
Msgr. Mark J. Hurley (Administrator)	1961-1962
Msgr. James M. Murray	1962-1970
Rev. Daniel M. Lynch	1970-1976
Msgr. Edward P. McTaggart	1976-1988
Rev. Thomas M. Parenti	1988-1994
Rev. James E. Myers SS	1994-2003
Msgr. Jose A. Rodriquez	2003-2010
Rev. Jose Pelagio A. Padit (Administrator)	2010-2015
Rev. Agnel De Heredia	2015-present

When Father Brady first came to St. John’s in 1893 he had few resources. Near what is now the intersection of College and Genebern Avenues, a chapel that was left over when St. Mary’s College

moved to the East Bay was the initial place of worship. Father Brady himself lived above a tavern on College Terrace Avenue. Satellite churches, missions, and eventually the parishes of Corpus Christi, Epiphany and St. Finn Barr were formed as offshoots from St. John's.

By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, the strong faith of German, Irish and Italian Catholic immigrants formed St. John the Evangelist as a vibrant parish of the Archdiocese of San Francisco. The Parish began to grow from its humble beginnings by leaps and bounds in the midst of the then upcoming developments amid its unique challenges on the southern part of the City of San Francisco.

For next seventy years parish buildings were built, eventually renovated to meet the ever-increasing needs, and when they served their purpose, replaced. In 1896 the rectory was built. In 1903 St. John the Evangelist Church was completed. In 1910 a new \$20,000 auditorium on the corner of Marsilly and St. Mary's Avenues was dedicated. The year 1917 saw the arrival of the Ursuline order of sisters and the opening of the convent and grade school, which also became home to a girls' high school in 1926. In 1941 a renovation of the Rectory came about with a new garage replacing the old stables. In 1957 a new Ursuline High School was dedicated at a cost of \$250,000. Finally, in 1967 a new St. John Grade School at 925 Chenery Street, replaced its aging predecessor on St. Marys Avenue.

Despite the sacrifice of the founding parishioners, this phase of expansion was not without its difficulties. Twice major public works projects created significant geographic divisions within the parish boundaries. A highpoint of mass attendance had occurred in the 1930s and 1940s. In 1936 1400 individuals attended mass each Sunday.

However, soon after that, some major development projects came along that changed forever its homogeneous Parish territorial boundaries. The construction impact of the Bernal Cut, which formed the current San Jose Avenue, divided out one-third of the parish by restricting pedestrian traffic and transportation from major residential neighborhoods of the parish to the Church proper. Records show us the impact of the building of the Interstate 280 in late 1950s, causing unforeseen fragmentation, affecting the Parish when it lost nearly five hundred single family homes. These major disruptions combined with the City's cultural and demographic changes of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century saw St. John's become a parish much like other older parishes of San Francisco reflecting smaller number of families, smaller families, and older populations.

Yet the parish still contains the spiritual potential of youth and vitality provided by the Catholics living in Bernal Heights and Glen Park districts. Following the period of expansion, the characteristics of the parish and its surrounding neighborhood began to change. Hispanic and Filipino working families migrating to San Francisco became the new face of St. John's. Just like their predecessors, these new generations brought their deep faith and dedication to the parish to make it something extraordinary and outstanding. Moreover, they invested themselves to be capable stewards of the Parish as witnessed by the 1990s and early 2000s campaigns to upgrade

roofing, exterior surfacing, electrical and sewer systems. These families were the forefront of those efforts.

### The Saint John the Evangelist of Today

Today St. John the Evangelist stands as a small parish of three-hundred active families in a cohesive and culturally diverse community of faith. The vibrant Hispanic and Filipino communities draw families from much of the North Peninsula, especially when we congregate for tri-lingual Thanksgiving, Christmas, Holy Week, San Lorenzo de Ruiz and numerous other celebrations. These liturgies highlight a community which not only respects its diversity but uses that diversity as the center of its Christian religious worship. The grade school continues its pursuit in excellence with its high and modern standards of Catholic education. The Saint Vincent de Paul Society Conference of St. John's serves the poor of the parish and surrounding districts with food and clothing as few other parishes of its size might provide. The Knights of Columbus Council 615, which is the oldest Council west of the Mississippi, centered out of St. John's, recently celebrated its 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary and continues as one of the preeminent councils in the western United States. The former high school continues as a center of education by providing facility to the Electricians Apprenticeship program.

St. John's remains a community fully supporting its founding values. Currently, average Sunday mass attendance is 550 to 600. Through the financial sacrifices of parishioners, we maintain and operate the Church and buildings without debt. Through the personal sacrifices and dedication of our clergy we have a full schedule of Sunday, Holy Day and daily worship and devotions available to parishioners. Our lay ministerial participation represents a very large gifted and diverse portion of our parishioners. Our daily masses illustrate an amazing religious participation of our community as perhaps no parish of our size has such an impressive average daily mass attendance of fifty to sixty parishioners.

And now, in this year of our Quasquicentennial, we turn to address the future for the next generation of parishioners as we start our campaign of "Fixing God's House."

The Church is now 115 years old, the Rectory is 122 years old, and it has been at least fifty years since any major work has been done to the surrounding grounds. Whether it is refurbishing the heating system, painting the Church interior, new front doors or making the Rectory Hall more accommodating to after-sacramental gatherings we look forward to maintaining pride in our house of worship. With the various Parish councils your pastor has reviewed the current Parish plant conditions, identified the needed upgrades, and put forth a plan of "Fixing God's House."

Going through this long document, we acknowledge with humble gratitude the marvelous selfless and countless generous efforts of our friends, families, and Parishioners of "yesterday" and "today" to build, to sustain and hand down this precious legacy to us.



# *“FIXING GOD’S HOUSE”*

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church  
 19 St. Mary’s Avenue  
 San Francisco, CA 94112

Five Year Maintenance Program  
 2018 - 2023

**“Fixing God’s House”  
 Committee**

- Rev Agnel De Heredia*
- Michael Bennett*
- Jose Calero*
- Linda Catalano*
- Judy De La Torre*
- Aida Grona*
- Joan Higgins*
- Cookie Hoeg*
- Pacquita Johnson*
- Joseph Matranga*
- Judith Matranga*
- Flaviano Redublado*
- Rogelio Rodriquez*
- Joseph Shasky*
- Lety Tomas*
- Sonia Urquilla*

***Church***

- Restore Heating System \$ 165,000
- Interior Painting 100,000
- New Exterior Doors 30,000
- Ramp & Emergency Exit 25,000
- Side Exterior Stair Replacement 25,000
- Confessional Renovations 20,000
- Sacristy & Sanctuary Remodel 20,000
- Refinishing of Woodwork & Pews 15,000
- Stain Glass Repair 10,000

***Rectory***

- Rectory Hall Upgrades 60,000
- Electrical Upgrade 30,000
- Exterior Stair & Deck Repair 30,000
- Interior Paint 20,000

***Grounds & Common Areas***

- Safety Upgrades 25,000
- Parking Asphalt Repair 15,000
- Gates & Fencing 10,000

PROJECT TOTAL \$ 600,000



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### *An Illustration of Campaign Gift Plans*

There are many ways to make a gift to the “Fixing God’s House” Campaign. Many donors may feel they can give a larger gift by extending their payments.

Pledges are the financial lifeblood of the campaign. They provide the donor the opportunity to make a greater commitment to the project than a one-time cash gift by making payments over a five-year period of time. An initial payment on a pledge is very beneficial, since it provides immediate cash to begin our many maintenance projects. For convenience all payments have been rounded to the next highest whole dollar with the pledge being met when the total gift amount is reached.

### *Sample Five-Year Gift Plans*

Total Gift Amount	Initial Payment	Balance	Annual Payment	Semi-Annual Payment	Monthly
\$ 10,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 167
\$5,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 84
\$ 2,500	\$ 500	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	\$ 250	\$ 42
\$ 1,000	\$ 200	\$ 800	\$ 200	\$ 100	\$ 17
Quasiquicentennial Special of \$125 / yr	\$ 125	\$ 500	\$ 125	\$ 63	\$ 9

All gifts are payable over 5 years. The above example gift plans are based on an initial payment and subsequent equal installments. The amounts shown in the table are rounded to the next highest dollar; the pledge is satisfied once the Gift Total Amount is met. Donors may pay their gift in full, make an initial payment followed by equal installments, or create other payment plans. All gifts, regardless of amount, are greatly appreciated and will be acknowledged. All payments are tax deductible in the year in which they are paid.

*St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church in San Francisco, California, is an official agency of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States which has been determined to be exempt from federal income tax under the provisions of Section 501(c) (3) of the US Internal Revenue Code.*



# “FIXING GOD’S HOUSE”

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church  
 19 St. Mary’s Avenue  
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A Commitment to Maintain Our Parish Facility

“Fixing God’s House”  
 Committee

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As proud members of the St. John the Evangelist Parish Community, we are most aware of the need to maintain our wonderful parish plant. We have reflected on the “Fixing God’s House” Committee recommendations for the next five years and we have chosen to pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ towards this most important effort. I/We will provide this financial support in the following manner:

- \_\_\_\_\_ *A one time gift*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *A pledge over five years payable in equal annual payments*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Semi-annual payments*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Monthly payments*
- \_\_\_\_\_ *Another type of pledge payable as follows:*

\_\_\_\_\_ Check here if you wish to set up on line pledge payments being transferred from your bank or credit card account

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Donor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Acknowledged by  
 Father Agnel De Heredia  
 Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Donor Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

*Please make checks payable to St. John the Evangelist Church – “Fixing God’s House.”  
 A copy of this commitment will be returned to the donor following the Pastor’s signed acknowledgement.*