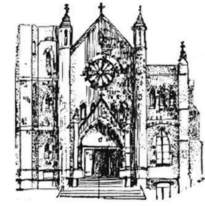




CHURCH OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

607 Central Avenue, Albany, New York 12206-1918



Established 1902

Lawsuit Settlement Financial Meeting

April 9, 2026 ~ 10:00 AM, BSS Gymnasium

1. **Scripture Passage: Luke 12:13-21**
2. **Lawsuits & Our Responsibility**
 - a. The pastors, administrators, & trustees of the diocese have been in a variety of meetings over the last 4-5 years. We have been told since the beginning of this process that it would result in a settlement, and all **126 parishes** would contribute.
 - b. Sadly, there have been abuses of children under the Church's watch in the U.S. since the middle of the last century, and much of it started to come to light starting with the Spotlight exposé in Boston in 2002. This was painful, but good.
 - c. There are 13 lawsuits against Our Lady of the Angels, St. Patrick, & Blessed Sacrament, accusing lack of oversight of employees, who ultimately abused children: priests, lay men at the schools, and a religious sister (all deceased).
 - d. The 2019 NYS law allows organizations to be sued that should have had stricter oversight of their employees, which includes our dioceses, parishes, the Boy Scouts, and many others.
 - e. There are about 400 claims that will be paid out from the settlement. How they are determining the veracity of the claims is a process unknown to me.
3. **Settlement**
 - a. The diocese (not the parishes) entered into bankruptcy 3 years ago.
 - b. \$148,000,000 - The amount agreed upon in late March 2026
 - i. The settlement also includes stipulations as to how we must protect children in our care. I believe that children are in good hands in the Church; we have been very strict with our Safe Environment training since the 2002 report and the Dallas Charter. The Church is now much better at treating, protecting, and caring for the most vulnerable among us.
 - ii. Insurance Companies will pay additional \$ money, determined separately.
 - iii. Diocese & Associated Entities responsible for **\$98,000,000**
 - iv. Parishes responsible for **\$50,000,000**
 1. Any department or subsidiary of the parish is included.
4. **Blessed Sacrament Financial Position** (See *Annual Report/Parish Snapshot* on website)
 - a. Our regular collection revenue only barely meets our regular expenses, and each year we might need to use some savings or investments, especially with the school.
 - b. Employees: our parish employs parish manager, faith formation director, food pantry director, music director, maintenance director, and many volunteers to accomplish all the works of the Church.

- c. Building & Grounds: Church, School, Rectory/Office, Garages
- d. Our Lady of the Americas & Sr. Maureen Joyce Center have separate accounts.
- e. BS Church is committed to \$125,000 per year to the operation of BS School.
 - i. Over the last 5 years, the school has been using up its endowment at ~\$200,000 per year, and it currently owes the parish ~\$50,000.
- f. Our Contribution
 - i. Calculations started with each parish giving 1) 55% of savings, then 2) some parishes were asked to pay more based on whether they could afford it, and 3) whether they could mount a capital campaign to recoup what they pay (some may have savings but no way to run a campaign).
 - ii. As of 30 June 2025, Blessed Sacrament was the 6th wealthiest parish.
 - iii. All restricted financials, for the school, the SMJC, the Food Pantry, were removed, so our portion is based only on parish savings, and the committee asked for only what we have on hand, what we can pay without fundraising.
 - iv. Blessed Sacrament's responsibility: \$1,776,000.
 - v. I'm acting like it's already gone, even though it isn't due for 4-8 months. Right now it's still making us money in investments in stocks and bonds.

5. Immediate Financial Priorities

- a. School Endowment
- b. Property repairs:
 - i. Parking Lot (always needs maintenance)
 - ii. School Boiler (original to building)

6. Long-Term 5-Year-Plan Priorities

- a. Bishop Mark wants every parish to have a 5-year plan for the growth and sustainability of their parish. He wants each parish to take the time to reflect and to commit themselves to where we are going with the mission, the ministries, the liturgies, the membership, the finances.
- b. The Development Committee of the Board of the Albany City Catholic Schools of Blessed Sacrament & Mater Christi desires to build a \$5,000,000 endowment.

7. Mission of the Parish

- a. Our priority, unlike the *rich fool*, is not to live our lives complacently, hoarding our goods in silos, but to live our lives in relation with God and to provide the environment, the community, wherein all can grow & develop in wisdom and spirituality and relationship with God, and in which we can serve God and our neighbor. We spend our resources to accomplish this, our time, our talent, our treasure. We educate children, we feed the hungry, we comfort the families of the dying, we celebrate with those who have welcomed babies into their families and the family of the Church, through baptism. We pray together, we sing together, we learn together, we eat together, we serve God and neighbor together. And we also pay our debts together, including providing this settlement amount, as requested, to the victims. Through our parish, we serve each other, our brothers and sisters, and God, and anyone else God sends our way.

8. Other Resources

- a. Letter from Bishop Mark
- b. Frequently Asked Questions from RCDA
- c. Blessed Sacrament Parish Snapshot