



THE BIG BUCKS RAFFLE

SAINT JOSEPH CHURCH
Saints Cyril and Methodius Parish
604 North Laurel Street
Post Office Box 2099
Hazleton, Pennsylvania 18201

26 July 2021

My Dear Parishioners and Friends of our Parish Community:

As we have all experienced, the cost of living and operating our homes continually increase. It becomes more and more difficult to meet the various expenses that cross our desks on a regular monthly basis. The same is true in the operation of our Parish Community -- it becomes more and more difficult to meet our ordinary expenses on a timely basis. With the increase of Diocesan and school assessments, and the decrease in contributions due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it has become necessary, once again, to supplement our weekly Offertory income.

It is becoming more and more difficult to maintain the normal operating expenses to keep our Parish on a firm financial footing. This year's funds from the **Big Bucks Raffle** will be used to subsidize our Weekly Sunday Offerings to meet our yearly Parish assessments, as well as the normal operating expenses that must be met each month. For example, just to plow and physically remove the snow from our sidewalks and parking lots to alternative sites this past winter cost our Parish budget a total of \$15,670.00. This major expenditure has made it difficult with normal operational expenses.

In addition to this, there are several areas of sidewalks around our property as well as the paved area in front of the garage and the back entrance of the Church that have deteriorated greatly and currently are in grave need of attention and repair. Also, in the not to distant future, the side walls of the Church will need to be painted. If you look at them, you can see soot marks from the heat and candles discoloring them. In addition, we must begin, like many parishes in the Diocese, to install live streaming capabilities in our Church to broadcast Sunday, and even daily, our Masses on the Parish Website. We must begin to make financial preparations for these extensive projects.

In answer to the need for additional revenue and to be able to have a substantial amount of money available for dealing with these and other costly issues, our Holy Name Society and C.C.W. have responded once again by continuing to spearhead our fund-raising endeavor called "THE BIG BUCKS RAFFLE". This ticket, which will be based on the ***EVENING DRAWING*** of the Pennsylvania Daily Lottery, will offer cash prizes in varying amounts throughout the entire year. Our initial Lucky Lotto drawing, as in the past, will begin on September 1, 2021 and conclude on August 31, 2022. The cost of a ticket is \$60.00 for the entire year. Tickets must be paid in full to receive cash winnings. When all is said and done, this yearly ticket offers you ***365 chances to win substantial cash prizes***.

In the past years of operation, we have realized a combined profit of **\$165,480.00** from this fund raiser. Listed below is the breakdown of our profits:

2011 to 2012 -	\$18,080.00
2012 to 2013 -	\$18,980.00
2013 to 2014 -	\$18,610.00
2014 to 2015 -	\$18,800.00
2015 to 2016 -	\$18,620.00
2016 to 2017 -	\$19,950.00
2017 to 2018 -	\$16,150.00
2018 to 2019	\$17,250.00
2019 to 2020	\$19,040.00
2020 to 2021	\$27,080.00 (Not included in "Combined Profit" above)

As you can see, this fund raiser has been a tremendous help in the operation and maintenance of our Parish in the past and will greatly help at this time. Last year, the year of the Pandemic, we realized the greatest number of sales since the beginning of the Big Bucks Lotto. We sold a total of 682 of the 1,000-tickets available. Thank you for your support. It is my hope that we can repeat, or even exceed, what we did last year. Only with the help of all our Parishioners and parish friends can this be realized.

I thank you for all that you do to support our Parish Community. I thank you, also, for considering purchasing a **BIG BUCKS LOTTO** ticket to support our Parish. Along with the ticket that you purchase, may I also ask for your help by soliciting the help of your family, friends, and neighbors to purchase additional tickets. You can receive additional tickets by calling the Parish Office during regular business hours.

Once again, thank you for your continued generosity and self-sacrifice which will enable the Parish of Saints Cyril and Methodius to continue to serve the Greater Hazleton Area as a welcoming and beautiful community.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Reverend Michael J. Piccola, V.F.

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Pastor