

Subject: Parish Center Update

Date: September 10, 2015

There has been substantial activity and work performed on our Parish Center project since our last update. Thank you to all who have been planning, meeting, offering ideas, etc.

Architect Meeting

On Tuesday evening, September 1st, many Holy Trinity Committee Chairs, Teachers, Staff and Parishioners met with Joe Clarke, Architect with Groth Design Group. The discussion was lively with many questions and ideas kicked around. "Ground-rules" & Goals were established for the meeting discussion, including listening and respecting each other's ideas.

The Vision for the Parish Center was discussed and agreed upon. Functions that will be housed in the Parish Center were listed. Sizes of classes and teams were discussed. After sacrament functions were listed. Support spaces and storage areas were vetted. The campus site was reviewed. The Parish Center could be located in front of HT School. Another area could be between HT Church and School. Features & benefits were listed for each site discussed. Between School & Church allows Holy Trinity to retain our green area along Main.

Options to attach the Parish Center to both HT School and HT Church were discussed. The final option will be designed to be handicap-accessible. Parish needs include middle-school size gym for basketball, volleyball and physical education, Mass over-flow crowds, musical events (stage & accoustics), School, Religious Education & Parish assemblies & dinners, a new kitchen, cafeteria and Parish Offices with private meeting & counseling areas.

Joel Fleischman, HT Building Committee Co-Chair said, "Went even above my lofty expectations. Over 43 inspired people moving forward with positive and creative ideas, with a very talented architect. It's going to be a beautiful project that will outlive all of us."

Next Architect Meeting

Next meeting is Thursday, September 17th at 6 pm in HT Church basement. All Parishioners & Staff are invited to attend and brainstorm ideas with our architect, Joe Clarke. Agenda items include future location of Parish Center. We also hope to finalize space needs at this meeting.

Capital Campaign

The theme for Holy Trinity's capital campaign for the Parish Center is **WE BELIEVE**. Father and chairs have been working with Mark Filips of Vision Works to design the structure and identify parishioners for key roles on the campaign Steering Team. Please be receptive when you are called. The length of most positions will be about 6 months, and most are designed to take about 20 hours of your time. This is a great opportunity to meet and work with others in the parish. Calls will be made the week of September 20th. Please mark your schedule for Steering Team orientation which will be Thursday, October 1st.

The **WE BELIEVE** campaign will be similar to how we conducted our very successful Faith In Our Future campaign, except that all funds will stay here in Holy Trinity. Our campaign will start in late October and wrapped up in early April with a celebration weekend. Father is looking forward to working with all of you to complete this once-in-a-lifetime vision for our parish and our community. Also, the Archdiocese has been very supportive towards this project.

Holy Trinity School News

Holy Trinity School started classes on September 1st. Enrollment continues to grow from 92 students in 2013, to 105 students in 2014, and now 111 students in 2015. Holy Trinity is one of the few elementary schools in the area that continues to see year-over-year enrollment gains. 13 new families enrolled their children at Holy Trinity this year.

Holy Trinity School is known for its strong academic standards as evidenced by strong student performance in secondary schools, with many HT students achieving Honor Roll status. The best part of our curriculum is that we incorporate the Gospels and teachings from our faith in many activities at Holy Trinity. One of our driving values with our Staff and students is respect. This means being honest and respectful toward each other.

Holy Trinity Religious Education Updates

This week we started our classes on Wednesday evenings. This is our largest ministry here at Holy Trinity and St. Michael Parishes. We have many volunteers teaching our faith and sharing their Christian values with our youth. There is a lot of excitement on Wednesday evenings, and a wonderful display of our parishioners' stewardship of time and talent.

Cemetery Updates -- Other news in our parish includes an update on our cemeteries. In 2013, a cemetery committee representing all cemeteries, Holy Trinity, St. Bridget and St. Matthias was formed. Members include Cemetery Sexton's, Cemetery Employees, a Finance committee member, a Trustee, a retired Funeral Home operator, plus Father Ed. Key accomplishments:

- Established a second year operational fund per Archdiocesan guidelines for cemetery maintenance.
- Established a separate Perpetual Care fund CD per Archdiocesan guidelines.
- Repaired four St. Matthias cemetery monuments from the 1800's – donated.
- Repaired Holy Trinity West Cemetery sign – donated by committee member.
- Replaced flag at Holy Trinity West Cemetery – donated by committee member.
- Defined Natural or Green burials at Holy Trinity cemeteries.
- Implemented and published new Burial Rights ownership forms that were recommended in Archdiocesan guidelines.
- Repaired an eroded boundary marker at St. Matthias.
- Found and re-marked the Holy Trinity West survey markers, saving the cost of redoing a Survey --- donated by committee members and saving approximately \$1200.
- Developed detailed cemetery privileges and regulations for purchasers of Burial Rights for all cemeteries.
- Developed detailed Sexton and Employee Operational procedures in accordance with Archdiocesan cemetery and financial guidelines.
- Cemetery finances have improved from a loss of \$2624.12 in 2012 to a gain of \$64.67 at end of 2014 season.

So, our cemeteries are in great shape and are being maintained by a dedicated group of parishioners. Please take a minute and stop at one of our well-kept cemeteries. Minutes of all cemetery committee meetings are posted on our website, www.kewaskumcatholicparishes.org.

Happiness Comes From Seeking The Kingdom of God!