



**John Ehlike/Daily News**

Joseph Clarke with Groth Design Group works through his presentation on the proposed site plans for the expansion at Holy Trinity Catholic Church Thursday night in Kewaskum.

# Holy Trinity announces building project, fund campaign

# Anonymous donor contributes \$750K for center addition

By **JOE VANDELAARSCHOT**  
Daily News

**KEWASKUM** — It was a day that residents of Kewaskum and members of Holy Trinity Parish have been hoping to see for decades — plans for an addition to the church and school that include a gymnasium.

Plans for the 13,400-square-foot parish center were unveiled to a gathering of more than 75 people Thursday night in the church basement. Members of a steering committee also kicked off a fundraising campaign for the center and additional work sought for the church and school.

"This project has been talked about and hoped for over the last several decades," said Parish Pastoral Council Chairman Brian Wildt. "When the church received an anonymous \$750,000 donation, that really planted the seed to allow this project to finally happen."

The church also received an additional anonymous donation of \$250,000 to pay for maintenance of the new

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— **The Rev. Edwin Kornath**  
Holy Trinity Parish

center over the next 10 years.

The committee announced the start of the "We Believe" capital campaign with a goal of raising nearly \$2.3 million to pay for the remainder of the costs for the new parish center and other church property improvements, including tuck-pointing and parking lot renovation. They also hope to expand cemetery storage and add to the church's emergency reserve fund.

Joe Clarke of Groth Design Group, who unveiled drawings of the proposed project, said one major point of the plan is the construction of a gymnasium.

"That's something the school and church has never had," Clarke said. "There

will also be a new kitchen and cafeteria as well as much more space for storage and meetings. Church offices will also move into the new center."

Parish member Larry Wheaton called Thursday's announcement a big day for the church and the community.

"It's exciting. My daughter attends the school and the gymnasium is going to be a great thing," Wheaton said. "Right now they have to schedule a time at the middle school to use the gym there for basketball and when its volleyball season they have to schedule gym time in Farmington. That includes a lot of travel time and travel expense. Now with the new gym they won't have to work around the schedules of other schools to have practice or games."

Andy Pesch has been a church member for 42 years.

"It's great that we'll finally be able to accomplish this," Pesch said. "We've needed it for a long time. The donation really got the ball rolling."

The Rev. Edwin Kornath said everyone in the community will benefit from the new building once its completed.

"It's so great that we're finally able to bring this seed to fruition after wanting it

for so long, but being unable to afford it," said Kornath. "This will be additional space for the church and the community."

Lifelong parish member Carol Heller said it was a great day for the church and school.

"I just wish they could have had the gym when our children were attending school here," said Heller.

School Principal Jodi Casetta said she was "awestruck" when she heard of the initial anonymous donation.

"I thought, 'what an incredible thing for someone to do,' and it's needed so much," Casetta said. "The students are very excited about the news. Now it's up to the parish and community to raise the additional money to complete the dream. Having this beautiful gym will certainly be another reason why students will want to attend school here."

Kornath said they hope to raise the necessary money in time to be able to break ground around Easter.

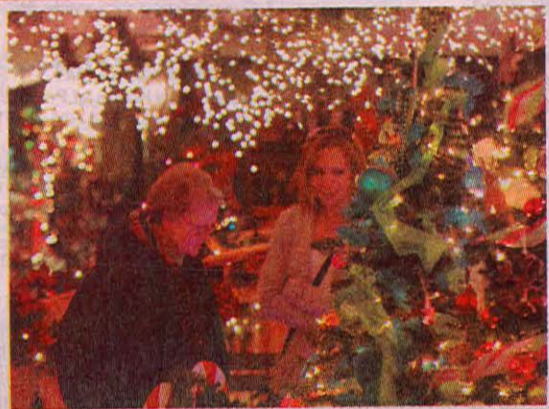
Clarke said some minor changes may need to be made in the design to keep the cost to less than \$2 million.

"That may mean downsizing it slightly, but not by much," Clarke said. "It's very preliminary to estimate how long it will take to build, but generally a building this size could take up to nine months."

Holy Trinity Church is 154 years old. The school was established in 1880.

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