

Stepping Stones

News for Our Family

About Our Journey

Toward Our Home

Site of Our Future Home

Holy Family Parish

www.holyfamily.com

April 2011

TAKE THE NEXT STEP IN A 31-YEAR JOURNEY

Holy Family has taken many steps to get where it is today. During a 31-year journey, it's grown by leaps and bounds, often exceeding expectations.

Plans were made. And, plans were changed.

Initially, Holy Family was planned as a small parish. It was one of several smaller parishes to be formed from larger ones, as it had been from St. Charles.

A year after its founding in 1980, Holy Family was mentioned in a Kansas City Times article about smaller parishes. Bishop John J. Sullivan felt that would be the "pattern of the future." The diocese planned to build other new smaller parishes – about 500 families – in the Northland as the need arose.

When the church was completed in 1982, the parish had 402 families. It consisted of the worship space, the "Family Room" and an office suite in a small basement. While the parish needed space for classes and activities, it had debt that needed to be paid off. Facility expansion was discussed several times, but it wasn't until 1994 that the parish made a master plan for the future.

That master plan included an education building, similar to the current building. It included a new larger worship space with seating for 925. The present church would be converted into a parish hall when the new church was built.

Growing pains grew more obvious in 1996, especially at the 11 a.m. Mass when more people attended than there were seats. Parishioners were encouraged to attend Mass at other times to alleviate overcrowding.

When the plan was revised in 1997, it included a 1,200-seat capacity church, but it was scaled back to include only an education wing due to cost.

The parish had grown to 755 households when the parish took the next step in September 1998 to break ground on the education building.

By 2000, the parish had 845 households. It had been projected to have only 600 by then, but the Northland grew more quickly than anticipated during a housing boom.

The parish planned to begin a capital campaign in 2002, but leadership agreed to hold off, citing a national economic downturn and local issues.

That year, the diocese abandoned plans to begin smaller parishes in the Northland. Existing parishes were asked to expand.

Parish leadership now knew Holy Family would need to take steps in a different direction. The 96th Street property was smaller than originally thought with the lake complicating expansion. The parish began searching for a larger parcel of land because growth would outstrip projections. Earlier plans were unrealistic.

The parish purchased 60 acres at 106th Street and North Woodland Avenue for \$780,648 in 2003. Large tracts of land were difficult to find and the price was good. The diocese supported the decision, loaning Holy Family 100 percent of the money without requiring a campaign.

In 2004 the facilities committee procured a new master plan and site program for the new location. Father Matthew arrived shortly after this.

The worship space continued growing more crowded, so in 2005, glass was removed from the partition between the worship space and the Family Room. By that time, the parish had over 900 families. The *Join the Journey* campaign was held that year to reduce the parish debt.

The *Our Family, Our Journey, Our Home* campaign was held in 2008. It was hoped the parish could start building on the 106th and North Woodland site after this campaign, but the parish did not reach its goal due to an economic

Continued on Page 3



Yes, Holy Family Matters!

A MESSAGE FROM
FATHER MATTHEW

You may recall that nearly two years ago we changed the banner on our parish newsletter from *Join the Journey*, the theme of a previous campaign, to *Holy Family Matters*.

Prior to the change, our editor Suzanne Hill asked for suggestions to rename the newsletter.

Parishioner Marie Genz (who died way too young on January 1, 2010) came up with the winning suggestion.

“Our Holy Family does matter,” Marie said, “and we hope it matters to you, too.”

Holy Family matters.

One definition of matter that applies is: “something that is printed or otherwise set down in writing.”

That is the purpose of our publication. We provide you with printed stories about and reflections directed toward our parish family.

Holy Family matters.

I know in the short statement that Marie gave us, she was after a different meaning of matter: “something that is the subject of concern, feeling or action.”

Yes, Holy Family matters.

It is our parish home, so we should be concerned about its past, present and its future.



Holy Family matters.

We all have thoughts and feelings and memories as well as hopes and dreams about this unique place.

Holy Family matters.

And because we are concerned and have feelings about this place, it should move us to continue setting it on a hill to serve as a beacon to all.

Holy Family matters.

Each of us will complete that sentence in a different way. No answer is right or wrong. And each of the different ways we answer is important to us.

In the weeks between now and commitment weekend (June 11- 12) we want to give as many of you as possible

the chance to complete that sentence.

How will you complete it?

E-mail your response to Suzanne Hill at suzanne@holyfamily.com, send it to us in the mail, post it on the parish Facebook page or drop it into the collection on Sunday.

Holy Family matters . . .

If you want, put your name on it – if you don’t mind us using it – or, if you want to remain anonymous, don’t sign it.

Just to keep you in suspense, I will give you my response to the question next time!

This muddy mess is the result of people being forced to park on the parish grounds during the snowy winter months.



Do you have questions about our campaign extension, “Take the Next Step”?

If we have not answered them here, please feel free to send them to us by:

- E-mailing patty@holyfamily.com,
- Posting them on www.facebook.com/HolyFamilyKCMO
(That is if you belong to Facebook and “like” Holy Family.)
- Mailing us at 919 NE 96th Street, Kansas City, Mo. 64155,
- Dropping in the box by the parish offices or in the collection.

What Do You Want to Know About the Next Step?

Here are some questions you might have about our “Take the Next Step” campaign extension with answers following.

Why is Holy Family extending the capital campaign for 18 months?

The parish is waiting for the economy to stabilize before beginning a formal campaign. It will also get parish giving on a calendar year versus a fiscal year.

Why aren’t we using a consulting firm to direct this campaign?

Since Patty Whelchel has been hired as stewardship and development director, she will direct the campaign. She understands Holy Family after serving on staff for several years. Many parishioners are “seasoned” from participating in prior campaigns and are serving on the campaign advisory committee. They will work together for

the good of *our* parish.

Are we going to have any informational meetings?

The campaign advisory committee has discussed this. Given the competition for people’s time and attention, we have developed the Stepping Stones newsletter you may read at your convenience. These newsletters will provide identical information, alleviating miscommunication. They will also be posted on our parish Web site. Patty Whelchel would be happy to provide information and take questions at the stewardship table in the parish hall on the second weekend of the month.

What is this campaign’s goal?

Our goal is to continue raising funds to ultimately move to 106th and Woodland. It will take us several campaigns to be able to build our dream, but hopefully we will be successful enough to begin developing the land and use the property.

Will the money I give be used for a new building?

That’s up to you. If you want to contribute to the new property – fantastic! If you want to contribute to keep the current location in good working order – fantastic! Your money will be used as you request. We need to each discern our next step on this journey.

To make our dream a reality, we first need to develop the site. No building can be done until the area is “prepped.” This entails building water, sewage and electrical lines, roads and parking, grading, etc.

If we are moving, why are we going to spend money on additional parking and other needs here?

We do not have a crystal ball to show us how quickly we will be able to move. We cannot make the transition overnight. We have issues that constantly need our attention. One was sanctuary seating, which we addressed by removing the wall. We are now dealing with the parking issue. In the foreseeable future, we will need to address the boiler/heating and air conditioning system. We should not ignore or neglect our current location. We must maintain it as an investment in our future.

31-YEAR JOURNEY

Continued from Page 1

recession that began when the campaign did.

It did, however, receive \$1.6 million in pledges with parishioners doubling contributions over the previous campaign. Funds raised from that campaign allowed the parish to pay off all debts, including the current site and the new land – a big step.

Since that campaign, parish leadership decided with the help of a facilitator to do what could be done at 96th Street to accommodate growth. Leadership has been seeking ways to make the current site more usable, including removing barriers between the worship space and Family Room in 2009. Now, the former Family Room is considered part of the church. Together they seat for 603. The facilities committee is looking at expanding parking and adding another entrance.

And, now the parish is looking to extend the last campaign with a shortened one, “Take the Next Step,” allowing us to continue being the “vibrant, spirit-filled faith community” we have become.

April 2011 Stepping Stones

A publication communicating
the progress of

Holy Family Parish

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Our Mission

Holy Family Catholic Church is a
vibrant, spirit-filled faith community.

Following the example of the Holy

Family, we seek God by

celebrating, growing and living our faith.

Adopted April 14, 2010

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UPCOMING DATES

APRIL 30-MAY 1

PICK UP PLEDGE MATERIALS

Parishioners who participated in the *Our Family, Our Journey, Our Home* campaign will find the boxes they decorated from that campaign with pledge materials inside. Parishioners who did not participate previously can pick up a new box with pledge materials inside. They can decorate their boxes, too.

JUNE 11-12

COMMITMENT WEEKEND

Take the Next Step: Return your boxes with pledges inside for both the campaign extension and the annual appeal.



Father Matthew and a helper carry some boxes in the parish's previous campaign

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