

Stepping Stones

News for Our Family

About Our Journey

Toward Our Home

Site of Our Future Home

Holy Family Parish

www.holyfamily.com

November 2010

A Message from Father Matthew

Since I have been here—and possibly even before—Holy Family has had a real *conundrum* (a problem with no satisfactory answer).



The conundrum is: How do we keep moving forward to the goal of a new home at 106th and Woodland while properly maintaining our current home?

We don't want to spend a lot of money here because it takes away from what we could spend there. But we still use and will eventually want to sell our current home so we just can't let things go to pot! Parking lots will still need to be maintained and leaky roofs will need to be replaced.

Over the past year, the staff, parish council, facilities and finance committees, along with the stewardship committee, have been meeting with facilitator Denise Simeone.

Out of these meetings, with intense conversation and debate at times, some clarity has risen from the fog and we have some definite plans for the future. They may be baby steps, but they are necessary "stepping stones" toward our

See Pastor's Message on Page 2

A WORD FROM YOUR PARISH COUNCIL

As members of the Holy Family Parish Council, we represent the parish as a whole. We are planning with other parish leadership committees how to make the best use of current space, as we take steps toward our new home.

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.

We challenge everyone to live our parish mission, as we commit ourselves to communicate our journey toward our new home.

Joan Bird, Paul Bobowski, Janet Buckman, Jerry Dechant, Marla Mangogna, Jane Meyers, Steve Van Keirsbilck and Father Matthew



Representatives of Holy Family's facilities and finance committees met with the parish council in September to discuss the parish's progress and the future.

Pastor's Message: Timeline for the Near Future

future.

From Page 1

It became clear everyone sees the parish council—the visioning body of the parish—as leaders in the small and large steps to get us to 106th and Woodland.

With this green light, the council met in September with representatives from the finance, facilities and stewardship committees.

We established this timeline.

By . . .

Thanksgiving 2010: We will communicate to parishioners to “catch them up” as to what has been happening and what will happen. You are reading that now.

November 17, 2010: The facilities committee will report to the council on two issues:

a) The cost of recently built churches in our diocese and their capacities. This will help us decide whether we should look at another church design (hopefully with a lower price tag) or be happy with the one we have.

b) Obtain from the proper Kansas City officials a response to the possibility of adding a second entrance to our current parking lot.

December 1, 2010: Hire a parish stewardship and development director. We are actually ahead of schedule on this one.

Patty Whelchel has been hired for this position. The council sees this as a key position to have created and filled as we near the end of our current campaign.

March/April, 2011: At the latest we will have a concrete plan in place for our next campaign to begin July 1, 2011.

May 1, 2011: The facilities committee will have a plan for access to the new property.

The parish council, stewardship

committee and Patty Whelchel can then move forward planning events to get parishioners on the property at various times of the year.

July 1, 2011: The beginning of a new campaign.

Please do not hesitate to challenge us to keep to our deadlines.

The sooner things are achieved, the sooner 106th and Woodland becomes a reality for our parish.

Also continue to pray for those who make decisions on behalf of our parish. Pray, too, that God continues to bless all of our parishioners with generous hearts.

Why Didn't I Get Involved Sooner

By Joan Bird
Parish Council Chairperson



Last summer, when Father Matthew asked if I'd be available and interested in joining the parish council, I must have given him a blank stare. For I must be honest, I didn't have good understanding of the council's purpose or council members' duties.

After speaking with other parish council members and reviewing the council's mission and bylaws, I agreed and was immediately glad I did. I've learned so much about how the parish operates and the number of people (staff and volunteers) it takes to provide the culture, services and liturgy that my family and I have enjoyed for years!

I keep asking myself, “Why didn't I get more involved earlier?” I have no excuses, but am glad I accepted the invitation.

One year later, I found myself asked to serve as council chair, of which again I said, “Yes!” I can't tell you what an exciting time this is for me, and for us—the community of Holy Family Parish!

We are members of a progressive community looking forward to a wonderful future of continued growth—both spiritually and physically. Membership projections within our boundaries are for increased growth and we are the proud owners of property that allows us to accommodate that growth! The parish council's task is to determine the next steps necessary to make those accommodations happen.

We had several new members join the council this year: Paul Bobowski, Jane Meyers and Steve Van Keirsbilck. Already they've made great contributions that we'll all benefit from. In addition, we have Janet Buckman, Jerry Dechant, Marla Mangogna and Father Matthew serving on the parish council.

I encourage you to take a more active role in any of the many ministries offered at Holy Family Parish. Sharing your talent and gifts has wonderful rewards that are unique for all of us. Approach any one of us if you have questions about any of the ministries. Our role (as I quickly learned) is to serve the needs of the parish. And the parish is **you!**

The Glass is More Than Half Full Holy Family Parish Is Blessed

It is easy to become negative or discouraged when we do not get what we want immediately. We can overlook the good and fail to be grateful for all that God has given us. Patience is a virtue.

By all means, Holy Family has been successful due to our great parishioners' contributions of time, talent and treasure. Over the course of the first two years of our current capital campaign (*Our Family, Our Journey, Our Home*), we have contributed over \$1,118,000. That's a very successful amount in spite of tough economic times and is on top of our previous successful campaign (*Join the Journey*) totaling \$1,650,000.

Look how we have been blessed. Through our parishioners' generosity, we paid off our debt of \$268,000. We own both our current land and facilities, and the premium parcel of real estate where we will relocate—free and clear. This property is a tremendous investment given its location.

We also have close to \$850,000 on deposit to use towards our ultimate goal of building a new church. Not only are we no longer paying interest, we are now collecting it.

As a result of a generous offer from some parishioners, our parish set an aggressive and ultimately, unrealistic goal. We envisioned a quick and easy process causing many to feel discouraged that we have not been successful.

Many parishes would love to be in our position. Our parishioners continue to provide support, allowing us to both operate in the present and start preparing for the future.

Galatians 6:9 states, "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up."

If we are patient and continue to support the parish, Holy Family will continue to thrive. We continue to remember our prayer: "Give us the faith we need to build a house on rock and not on sand."

We would like to thank everyone for their contributions of time, talent and treasure that serve as the rock on which we continue to build our parish.

The Finance Committee

*Matt Bednar, Larry Boeshart, chairman, Ron Farrell,
Henry Kaminski, Scott McBee, Barb Thomas and Mike Wilson*

Stepping Stones Photo

The landscape on the cover is a panoramic shot of Holy Family's 60 acres at 106th Street and North Woodland Avenue. The parish purchased this land in 2003. It had learned the diocese had canceled plans to start a new Northland parish and sought instead to expand existing parishes. Growth at the current location is limited. Eventually Holy Family will build at the vacant location.

Stewardship Is Gratitude

By Becky Kopecky
Stewardship Chairperson

To speak gratitude is courteous and pleasant, to enact gratitude is generous and noble, but to live gratitude is to touch Heaven.

— Johannes A. Gaertner

In one brief sentence, Johannes Gaertner, an art history professor from Germany, summed up the meaning of stewardship.

God has uniquely gifted and called each and every one of us to *gratefully* share our gifts through stewardship.



Holy Family understands gratitude. Since our establishment in 1980, we have grown from a parish of 340 families to over 800 active families.

The *Our Family, Our Journey, Our Home* capital appeal which began in 2008 was the first step toward a new church to accommodate our growth. The number of parishioners dedicated to parish involvement and our outreach ministries continues to grow.

We recognized the need for a director of stewardship and development as we continue to welcome new parishioners and plan for our new church.

Soon Patty Whelchel, as director of stewardship and development, will assist and guide us as Holy Family parishioners continue to live a life of stewardship—to *speak, enact and live gratitude.*

Thank you for living a grateful life!

Fall 2010

Stepping Stones

A publication communicating the progress of

Holy Family Parish

919 N.E. 96th Street
Kansas City, Mo. 64155
816-436-9200

www.holyfamily.com

www.facebook.com/HolyFamilyKCMO

Parish Staff

Father Matthew Brumleve

Pastor

Marie Relic

Parish Manager

Patty Whelchel

Director of Stewardship and Development

Heather Neds

Director of Youth Ministries

Peggy Petersen

Pastoral Associate

Ember Riley

Director of Religious Education

John Winkels

Director of Liturgy

Suzanne Hill

Communications Coordinator

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

Photos by Suzanne Hill

Unless Otherwise Noted

Holy Family Parish Copyright 2010



Patty Whelchel Named Director of Stewardship and Development

Patty Whelchel has been hired as the director of stewardship and development for Holy Family. Patty has seven years experience working at Holy Family, so she is very familiar with who we are, our mission and our goals.

Patty currently serves on our stewardship committee. She has recently attended regional and international conferences on stewardship. She brings a range of knowledge to the position. I hope we all wish Patty well, as her success will mean our success.

Father Matthew



Holy Family Catholic Church
919 NE 96th Street
Kansas City, MO 64155
816-436-9200

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit No. 2437