

Stepping Stones

News for Our Family

About Our Journey

Toward Our Home

Site of Our Future Home

Holy Family Parish

www.holyfamily.com

August 2011

DON'T TAKE BLESSINGS FOR GRANTED

Recently I gave a blessing to a resident at New Mark Care Center as she observed her 100th birthday! As I offered her a congratulatory hug, she said, "God has been so good to me."

I hope we don't take our blessings from God for granted.

A phone conversation with a friend in another part of the country revealed that her 75-year-old pastor was beginning to have difficulties getting through Mass. Parishioners are hesitant to call anyone at the chancery about the issue for fear that if the pastor is asked to retire, no one will replace him.

I hope we don't take our priests and others who minister to us on the parish level for granted.

One of our parishioners who had gone to Mass at

*A MESSAGE FROM
FATHER MATTHEW*



another parish recently said how good it was to be back at Holy Family.

"No one participated in the parish I was at. No singing. Few responses to the prayers. And no one was talking with each other before or after Mass."

I hope we don't take our parish community for granted.

Good stewardship begins with being grateful for what we have been given.

The U.S. bishops tell us that a good steward, "receives God's gifts **gratefully**, cultivates them **responsibly**, shares them **lovingly** in justice with others and **returns them with increase** to the Lord."

I hope as we continue to move forward, taking our next steps in faith, we don't take our responsibility to be good stewards for granted.

Take the Next Step to Our 'New' Property

JOIN US AT THE PARISH PICNIC SEPTEMBER 25

Once again, our parish picnic is scheduled for the last Sunday in September. Besides great food, fellowship and entertainment, including a television tuned to the Chiefs game, the parish council has added a special twist!

You will have the opportunity to take a bus from our church at 96th Street to our property at 106th and Woodland from 4:30 to 6 p.m. You will then board a nice hay wagon to ride the length of the property or to walk the trivia trail.

The wagon will return you to the bus. Members of the stewardship committee will be present to assist you.

The wagon is compliments of Knights of Columbus Council #3414.

Please take this opportunity to see what is yours. Take the next step on Holy Family Parish's future. We hope to see everyone on Sunday, September 25!

THE DAY'S EVENTS BEGIN AT 4 P.M.

Progress on Parking Lot Addition

If all goes as planned, Holy Family could complete its next step by adding 66 parking spots this fall. If not, look for new parking next spring.

The facilities committee, along with parish manager Marie Relic, has been working with Lutjen, an area survey, planning engineering and landscape architecture firm; the diocesan building committee; and the City of Kansas City's plan commission and board of zoning and adjustments (BZA).

It's taken several steps. First, Lutjen developed the site plan. The bishop consented to a meeting with the diocesan building committee.

The city's planning commission made landscaping/buffer changes to the plan before approving a special use permit, necessary because church property is in a residential area.

From the city planning commission, it went to the board of zoning and adjustments. BZA approved the parking lot with the stipulation that a micro storm drainage study be done to determine run-off effects.

Parish representatives met with property owners who live within 300 feet of church property to give them the chance to voice concerns.

The diocesan building committee recommended that the bishop approve the project. He has now sent an approval letter, so the parish can move forward with a



construction document.

The city will review the construction document for the lot layout and landscaping. Landscaping will provide a buffer between the lot and the nearby subdivision. The BZA approval is contingent on approval of the landscaping plan and stormwater study results.

Lutjen has put the project out for bids. They were to be returned by September 2. The facilities committee will discuss the bids on September 8.

Project completion depends on

the remaining approval process and the weather.

The plan provides parking to the south of the current parking lot with handicap spots near the parish hall's back door, for easy accessibility to either the hall or the elevator. It also includes a new entrance at the west end of the lot.

Lutjen believes that the new drainage system, which takes runoff directly to the pond, will be an improvement over current conditions. Drainage will run under the new parking lot to the pond.

Results from Previous Campaign

The *Our Family, Our Journey, Our Home* campaign officially ended June 30, 2011. A total of \$1,673,800 pledges were made. The parish collected \$1,306,857 from both adults and youth. The parish received \$27,892 from donations, memorial contributions and golf tournaments.

From that, the parish retired \$268,000 in long-term debt on the property at 106th and Woodland. We own that land free and clear.



Discipleship And Mission

By *Patty Whelchel*

DIRECTOR OF STEWARDSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

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Take the next step and commit yourself to seeing God in your neighbor, the guy in the car next to you, the lady in the line in front of you, the classmate on the playground, the player on the other team. The more we recognize God's presence every day, the more we can be like Him.

To become more like Him, we need to know Him. Spend some time with Him. It can be planned or spontaneous, one minute or one hour, in your car or on the bus. Whether it starts simply with a "Good morning," a "Look, Lord, this day is really not what I had planned" or "Thank you for getting me through the challenges of the day," it is putting God in the everyday.

I continue to get to know Him through the everyday. Some challenges I have faced over the years have been extremely difficult, but I never doubted that He wasn't right there holding me up. I tell myself that it could be worse and people suffer through much more.

Knowing God's presence keeps me committed. I look forward to seeing what He will bless me with each day. He helps me see what is a priority. What a great blessing! He takes care of me and I know I must care for what He has given me.

By sharing my time, talent and treasure with others, I am able to witness the many blessings I have reaped in return.

The conversations I have had with parishioners since I have been in my new position as director of stewardship and development have made me wonder:

Do parishioners understand what making stewardship a way of life means?

Do parishioners think we are asking them to give the impossible?

Do parishioners realize that making a commitment means so much more than the dollars you give?

Stewardship is not a one-time event, but a lifetime of commitment. It is not just making a pledge for a year. It is sharing all God has given you with one another.

It is when you spend time with a child or elderly parent, sing in the choir or greet parishioners at Mass, attend the parish picnic or a child's sporting event or

performance. It is when you tell your spouse, your child, your neighbor that you care about them with your words, as well as your actions.

The secret to making stewardship a way of life is Jesus Christ. Love Him. Serve Him. Be like Him. That will make all the difference in the challenges that we face in the everyday.

Yes, the parish faces many challenges just as you do in your own home. We have bills to pay just as you do. So for me to say money doesn't matter, I would be lying.

The Lord works miracles, but He didn't write a \$6,000 check for the education hallway compressor that had to be replaced!

We rely on your contributions so that we may continue to provide a great place to worship, to grow in your faith and to celebrate one another! But we do this as members of Christ's body – the church – and we must, using gifts God has given us, work to build the church by serving one another and helping one another grow closer to Christ.

God has given each one of us a multitude of gifts. All of them are different and individual, as we all are. Yet, these gifts are not simply meant for us to keep to ourselves. The gifts God has given us are to be shared with one another.

So if you're not blessed with a bankroll, a beautiful voice or a gift of speaking, you still have something to share. Committing ourselves to God, making stewardship a way of life, is simply living as Jesus taught us. *Everything* we do in the *everyday* should be done with the gifts God has given us.

It is in this spirit that I invite you to reflect on the words of 1 Peter 4:10:

"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as stewards of God's varied grace."

Online Giving

Parish manager Marie Relic has been looking into online giving. She has been investigating several companies that handle these transactions. We will let you know when it becomes available.

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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

***If you have not taken the next step,
it's not too late.***

Questions?

E-mail Patty at
patty@holyfamily.com.

Follow our progress at
www.holyfamily.com
and click on the
campaign link or
go directly to



www.holyfamily.com/Campaign/index.asp

Holy Family matters because . . .

“ it is an important source of community and love in my life. Our parish helps me stay rooted in my faith. It compels me to be committed in service to our members and all of God’s children. And it gives me hope and courage for the future of Catholicity. I can only be thankful for this gem God has put in my life. No doubt I am a better disciple for being placed here at Holy Family.”

Marla Mangogna

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