

St. Joseph Messenger

Building on Faith

Volume 1: Issue 2
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A publication of the St. Joseph Facilities Planning Team

This second edition of the *St. Joseph Messenger* covers the latest updates on the new church project and features information about the church community. You might already know Penny Johnston, but if not, you can meet her on page two. And on page four find out more about the CCW and their signature project – Pasties!

New Church Project Update

The Facilities Planning Team (FPT) is meeting monthly, allowing subcommittees to have greater focus. Here's what is happening with the sub-teams:

Communication Team. In addition to creating the monthly newsletter, the Communication Team is creating capital campaign branding and facilitating a variety of communication tools. Find information about the new church planning process on our website, cuyunacatholic.org; the "New Church" menu link opens a webpage containing planning process documents and newsletter issues. Keep an eye out for new church project Facebook and Instagram pages, and be sure to subscribe to get the latest posts. If you have questions, place them in the new question box in church, or email them to stjosephnewcampus@gmail.com. Every effort will be made to answer them in a future issue of *St. Joseph Messenger*.

Events Team. One of the values of St. Joseph Parish is loving relationships. The goal of the Events Team is to not only raise money for the new campus, but to foster relationships within our parish community. At the team meeting on October 24, a number of events were discussed, prioritized, and categorized as COVID-friendly and back-to-normal activities. The team joyfully announces that their first event is an outdoor Winterfest with the date to be determined! They will transform the new property into a winter wonderland, including horse-drawn carriage rides, sledding hills, bonfires, and s'mores stations. If you would like to help with Winterfest or any event, please reach out to Mike Aulie at 763-498-2997 or Tommy Sablan at 702-460-2711.

General Contractor Selection Team. At the first meeting, trade, engineering, and construction professionals discussed criteria for selecting a construction company to lead the building project. Due to the cost of detailed plans and the unknown amount of funding available, the team decided to delay the selection of a general contractor until after the capital campaign when funding is better defined. This will allow the design development and construction documents to be more in-line with the results of the capital campaign.

Looking to Help?

We could use your help! If you have a lot of experience, or not much at all, you're exactly who we're looking for! If you would like to volunteer, contact one of the Facilities Planning Team members or a sub-team co-chair.

In Christ,
Fr. Anthony

ROSARY - DECEMBER 5

Join the Prayer Guild after the First Saturday Mass for a Rosary in St. Joseph Church. Contact Mary Lee Dallman at 218-851-0193 or maryleedallman58@gmail.com for more information.

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Q & A

Want to learn more about the new church campus building project? Here are answers to frequently asked questions.

Q: Will there be an easement to enter the new property from County Road 31?

A: While there is never a guarantee, we believe that we will be able to access the property from CR-31.

Q: When we are asked to pledge money, how long will the pledge period be?

A: Though the specifics of the capital campaign have not been determined, other church capital campaigns in our area have been three-to five-year periods. Our discussions have generally been talked about in three-year terms, but nothing is certain.

Q: Will there be events held to raise money in addition to the capital campaign?

A: Yes, the event team is planning both community-based and financial-based events. They have a long list of ideas and will carefully consider all events and select those that make sense for our faith community. If you have event ideas, let the committee know.

Q: Is it possible there might be events held on the new property before construction begins?

A: It is likely that there will be events at the property prior to the start of construction.

Q: Are there any plans to put other structures, gardens or statues on the property?

A: The events team is considering options for creating a place of prayer at the site. Also, they are studying other long-term options including gardens and other prayer opportunities, even prior to the beginning of construction. Stay tuned to learn more.

Q: When will we get to see adjusted plans with changes from the Feasibility Study?

A: Adjusted plans will be revealed as part of the capital campaign, but even those plans may change based on the funding pledged during the capital campaign.

If you have a question about the new church building project, we want to hear from you. Please place your questions in the question box located in the church on the table along the stair landing windows. Or, send us an email at: stjosephnewcampus@gmail.com.



Generations at St. Joseph: Meet Penny Johnston

Parishioner Spotlight by Joan Hasskamp

Penny Johnston was born and raised in Crosby. Her parents, Carney and Gertrude Middleton, were active in the church. Her mom was the choir director, and her dad chaired the fundraising committee to build the elementary school.

Penny fondly recalls wearing her prettiest white dress and participating in many processions during elementary school. "Father Cashen loved processions," she said.

Penny married Bart Johnston, and they had three children, David, Theodore, and Heather. Bart joined the church when Father Pacquette was here. Many priests have served the St. Joseph community during Penny's life. "We've been blessed with good priests, each with their own talents and skills."

When Carney died, Penny and Bart took over her dad's Ford dealership and ran it for 25 years. Then Penny worked at Essentia Medical Center for 15 years until she retired several years ago.

Penny has always been active in the church. She taught religious education classes for 25 years. "I have so many good memories. I really enjoyed teaching religious education," she said. During Renew, Penny was instrumental in starting the sleeping bag ministry which continues today. With Father Deutsch's approval, Penny and several other parishioners started a St. Vincent de Paul chapter in 2012.

In addition, Penny has served as president of the CCW and was a member of the parish council. She also volunteered with the St. Nicholas Project which delivered Christmas gifts to kids. "I love our parish because it offers so many areas to get involved in and to use our gifts," she said.



Penny Johnston

Penny loves the sense of community at St. Joseph. Sadly, her mom died when she was only 18 months old. For years after her mom's death, Penny recalls numerous parishioners bringing the family food, Christmas cookies, toys, and gifts. "The people of our parish were so kind and good to Butch, Patty, and me," Penny said. "They took care of us in our time of need."

Later when Penny became a Eucharistic Minister, she felt her life had come full circle. "I was able to bring communion and minister to the very people that were so kind to me after my mom died," she said. "I feel so blessed I was able to return their kindness and love and be a help to them in their time of need."



Volunteer Focus

Joanne Ruttger,
Facilities Planning & Events Team

Growing up on a farm in Cannon Falls, Joanne Ruttger attended a Catholic school in New Trier and lived in the Twin Cities before moving north. She became a member of the St. Joseph community in 2005 and has been married to Chris for 18 years; their son, Sam, is 16. Currently, she is the Human Resources/Payroll Administrator at Ruttger's Bay Lake Lodge. Her hobbies include gardening and baking.



Joanne Ruttger

Joanne has a degree in Organizational Management and Communication from Concordia University, St. Paul. She is an experienced facilitator for team building trainings. She served as a member/secretary of St. Francis of the Lakes Catholic School Foundation Board for 12 years. She is currently a member/secretary of the St. Joseph CCW.

10 Reasons for a new church on Deer Trail Dr.

The Feasibility Study showed that most, but not all, parishioners surveyed were in favor of a new church campus. Please consider the following reasons to move forward with the project:

1. When the Deerwood and Crosby parishes united as one family, we experienced a need for more space to worship together. A new facility would provide that space.
2. We are blessed with a vibrant parish with many young and growing families. A larger facility would better enable us to nourish their spiritual needs during religious education.
3. As a matter of stewardship, investing \$4.2 - \$5.5 million dollars to repair, maintain, and expand the existing space would be more wisely invested in a more efficient campus with better parking and accessibility.
4. The additional acreage would provide space for outdoor stations, a rosary walk, a community garden, etc. This property would provide us with opportunities to share our love of neighbor with the surrounding community.
5. With 32 acres, the new property allows for future growth. If we build on the current location, there is no space for future growth.
6. The new location would provide adequate off-street parking and additional handicapped parking. This would allow for safer access to buildings.
7. The new church campus would have one level with all services contained in one building, providing greater accessibility and usability. The elimination of all stairs would be especially beneficial for those with disabilities or mobility challenges.
8. A new church campus would be more energy efficient than the current campus, providing lower long-term utility costs.
9. Nearly 70% (67.4% in favor, 13.4% not in favor, and 19.2% uncertain) of parishioners surveyed are in favor of launching a capital campaign to fund a new church.
10. The Feasibility Study showed that 73% of parishioners surveyed would financially support a capital campaign.



Committees

The following teams are actively working to move the new church project forward. If you have any interest in volunteering, consider contacting one of the following co-chairs:

Prayer Guild

Pray for special intentions

Mary Lee Dallman (Team Contact)

Facilities Planning Team

Oversees all other committees/teams

Dcn. Dan Goshey (Chair)

Events Team

Planning events for the parish

Mike Aulie (Co-Chair) Tommy Sablan (Co-Chair)

Communication Team

Develop communication tools to inform parishioners about current project status

Joan Hasskamp (Co-Chair) Doreen Miller-Fish (Co-Chair)

Heading to a warmer climate for the Winter and wish to get future copies of St. Joseph Messenger?

Find it at cuyunacatholic.org on the "New Church" page, or call Joan at 218-546-5554 for an electronic or printed issue to be sent to your winter address.





The Pasty Project – A Range Tradition

Spearheaded by the Council of Catholic Women (CCW), a devoted group of volunteers have been lovingly preparing and selling pasties since 1995. What started as a rather small undertaking has evolved into a major project with 60-65 volunteers gathering in the church basement on Tuesdays and Wednesdays for five weeks each fall to assemble and bake pasties.

Due to the pandemic, fewer pasties were made this year by a smaller group of volunteers. Despite the challenges, the group produced 2,000 pasties over a five-week period beginning September 30 and ending October 28. The 2,000 slots were quickly filled. Even in regular years, the CCW could sell far more than the 3,500 they produce. People love pasties.

Pasties are pastry-enfolded meat and vegetable pies that date back to the days when iron miners on the Cuyuna Range took them to work in their lunch boxes. Hearty and nourishing, they stayed warm for hours and could be eaten without utensils. While the local mines may have closed, the craving for the comfort food remains. In fact, sales have ballooned from 890 in 1995 to 3,500 in 2019. And is it any wonder? Anyone who has visited the church basement on baking day is seduced by their hard to resist alluring aroma. The project came to fruition due to the efforts of Betty Platisha. When her husband worked in upper Michigan many years ago, he regularly brought back pasties for the two of them to enjoy. Years later when the CCW pondered fundraising ideas, she suggested they market meat pies. After consulting with talented cooks, Angie Eisenreich and Gloria Perpich, a recipe was created, volunteers were recruited and the venture began. For four years, Betty and Delores Cyrus coordinated the project.

On Tuesday mornings when production commences, the church hall buzzes with activity as clusters of volunteers share laughs while they cut meat, prepare dough and chop carrots, potatoes, rutabagas, and onions. Coordinator, Avis Puchreiter, consults the checklist to prep for bake day while her sister and co-coordinator, Kay Chismar, takes a constant stream of phone orders. Hundreds of boxes lined with parchment paper are stacked against the wall ready to transport the finished product.



CCW and volunteers making pasties

The volunteers are a varied mix of people. There are women, men, Catholics, non-Catholics, locals, and commuters from other parts of the state. Several of the volunteers had mothers who worked on the project. Laughs abound throughout the church hall as good natured ribbing is volleyed back and forth.

Avis said she was mentored by Henrietta Pribyl who oversaw the project for many years. Like her predecessor, Avis keeps meticulous records. Her rather lengthy ingredient list shows that 2,000 pounds of vegetables, 875 pounds of meat, 1,375 pounds of flour, and a host of other items are needed to produce 3,000 pasties.

Over the years, money raised by the pasty project has been used to make needed repairs on the church, fellowship hall, rectory, church offices, classrooms, and adoration chapel. Proceeds have paid for upgrades to the kitchen, heating and cooling systems, flooring, and music system. The group has even purchased defibrillators. In addition, they support religious education and adult education programs. In the last several years, a portion of the proceeds have been given to local charities including St. Vincent de Paul and the Food Shelf.



Avis Puchreiter

Kay Chismar

Fresh from the oven

Despite the work and time involved, the volunteers look forward to pasty season. It's a time of fellowship, laughs, joyous work, and camaraderie. According to the volunteers, pasties not only feed the body, they feed the soul as well.



Enjoying Outdoor Mass

Colder temperatures may have brought the 10:30 Mass back indoors, but memories of outdoor Mass amid the COVID pandemic may warm our hearts.

