

St. Joseph's Messenger

Building on Faith

Volume 4: Issue 3
May/June 2023

A publication of the St. Joseph's Facilities Planning Team

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Joseph's,

What an exciting time we are in as a community. I can see the Lord working here, despite all the challenges we face in our time. There are also many blessings and graces which God is pouring out on us.

Earlier this month, we had our first St. Joseph's Gala event which was a huge success. It was such a fun evening, and the enthusiasm and energy were palpable. It was great to see so many people excited about supporting our new church project. Our parishioners as well as area Catholics and friends celebrated an evening of faith, fellowship, and fun. We raised over \$115,000 which will help make the dream of building a new church become a reality.

We recently confirmed 17 students, and 13 children received their First Communion. These were beautiful events. Over the course of the next year, four parishioners are slated to be married in our church. In the past year, we've celebrated 22 baptisms. It is such a blessing to see so much life in our parish community. One of our parishioners, Phil Stokman, will be ordained a priest in June and will celebrate Mass at our parish on Sunday, July 30. Currently, we have three other seminarians from our parish who are studying to become priests for the Duluth Diocese. Our parish has the highest number of seminarians in the diocese.

A new initiative, the Community Table, is scheduled to begin in June. This is an effort to connect people in the broader community and bring people together to share a meal each Monday in the parish social hall.

On June 11, we will celebrate Corpus Christi where we will join Catholics from our area in a procession from St. Francis of Assisi to St. Andrew's in Brainerd. An outdoor Mass will be celebrated at the new church property on July 9. There will be opportunities for our youth to gather this summer for events such as Totus Tuus (a week-long summer camp at our parish), Camp Survive (a diocesan camp for junior high students), a youth camping trip to the north shore, and a series of evenings dedicated to helping our high school students explore dating and relationships.

These are just some of the wonderful things happening in our community. The Lord is present in our midst. This work is His; we are striving to respond to the Bishop's mandate to call people to become missionary disciples of Jesus Christ. The Lord is calling all of us to follow Him. Our work as a parish community is to help people respond to that call, whether that is just planting a seed or helping that relationship which is already established to grow and mature.

Part of our response to this mission and work of proclaiming the gospel is to build a new church where future generations will continue to worship and share the message of salvation which the Lord has offered to us. Wherever you are in your journey, whether you are a regular parishioner, a summer parishioner, or an occasional visitor, we invite you to share in this beautiful life which God is calling us to live together.

On this Memorial Day weekend, as we remember the many sacrifices of the men and women of our armed forces it is good to honor and remember those who went before us and provided for our needs. Now it is our turn to make sacrifices and participate in the work of providing for the future of our community.

As we give thanks for the many blessings which God has given us and the many sacrifices which other people have made for us so we can enjoy the freedoms which our great nation was founded upon, may God bless you.

In Christ, Fr. Eli

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St. Joseph's
Catholic Church

617 Poplar Street
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Rosary: June 10 & July 8, 10 a.m.

Join the Prayer Guild for a rosary.
Contact Mary Lee Dallman at
maryleedallman58@gmail.com or
218-851-0193 for the location or if you
have any questions.

Prayer for Peace

Lord Jesus Christ, who are called the Prince of Peace, who are Yourself our peace and reconciliation, who so often said, "Peace to you" – please grant us peace.

Make all men and women witnesses of truth, justice and brotherly love. Banish from their hearts whatever might endanger peace. Enlighten our rulers that they may guarantee and defend the great gift of peace.

May all peoples on the earth become as brothers and sisters.

May longed-for peace blossom forth and reign always over us all.
Amen.

—St. John Paul II



Building Fund Gala is a Success

by Joan Hasskamp

A sold-out crowd of 180 attended the fun and festive St. Joseph's Building Fundraiser Gala held on May 6 at Dennis Drummond Wine Company in Brainerd. Dr. Rachel Cady and Michelle LeMieur were co-chairs of the event. Preliminary figures show the Gala raised over \$115,000.

Guests enjoyed music by the Lakes Jazz Authority while playing games, bidding on silent auction items, buying raffle tickets, and dining. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners, church groups, community members, and area businesses, there were many auction items to bid on and prizes to be won. The silent auction featured 115 items and raised \$12,810. The raffles brought in \$2,080 while the very sought after bottles on the whiskey wall raised \$4,215. A variety of entertaining games brought in a total of \$5,152. Very generous sponsors contributed \$39,000 in table sponsorships.

Tom Lewandowski served as emcee for the evening. Before dinner, Father Eli gave a welcome and blessing. Bishop Daniel Felton gave a short talk which was followed by a video about the building project made by film student, Seth LeMieur.

Super Bowl champion Matt Birk was the keynote speaker. The 15-year veteran of the National Football League he also was the former Director of Football Development for the NFL. A native of St. Paul, Matt was drafted by the Minnesota Vikings in 1998 and was a key off-season acquisition of the Baltimore Ravens in 2009. A six-time NFL Pro Bowl Selection and two-time All Pro, Matt proved to be an undisputed leader on the field and was named the sixth smartest athlete by Sporting News. In order to survive professionally while keeping his faith intact, Matt became a student of those who seem to effortlessly perform at a high level. He shared with the audience what makes these individuals so good at what they do, while at the same time, staying true to the principle of keeping God first, and using their talent for His glory.

After Birk's well received speech, auctioneer Kelly Conger revved up the crowd before commencing the live auction. The audience responded enthusiastically by bidding very generously on the thirteen items in the auction. The highest bids were for two pizza and game nights with Father Eli and a dinner for eight at Bishop Felton's home in Duluth. In total, the live auction raised \$41,850.

Father Eli gave the concluding remarks and thanked everyone for attending. Attendees contributed \$15,210 in an end-of-the-night Ask. Immediately after the program ended, the lights were dimmed and the deejay, Vern Erickson, started spinning dance tunes. The evening concluded with dancing and pizza for those who decided the party wasn't over.

Penney Johnston attended the Gala and said she had a super time. "It was absolutely awesome," she said. "It was so fun because everyone was so happy to be there for a good cause. The event center was beautifully decorated and so classy. I am so appreciative of the people who put in a lot of work to make it an awesome event."

After a very successful and enjoyable Gala, preparations are already underway for the 2nd annual St. Joseph's Building Fundraiser Gala. Plans are to hold the Gala at a larger venue which would accommodate a bigger crowd and allow more room for activities. Mark your calendar for May 10, 2024 at the Northern Pacific Center in Brainerd.

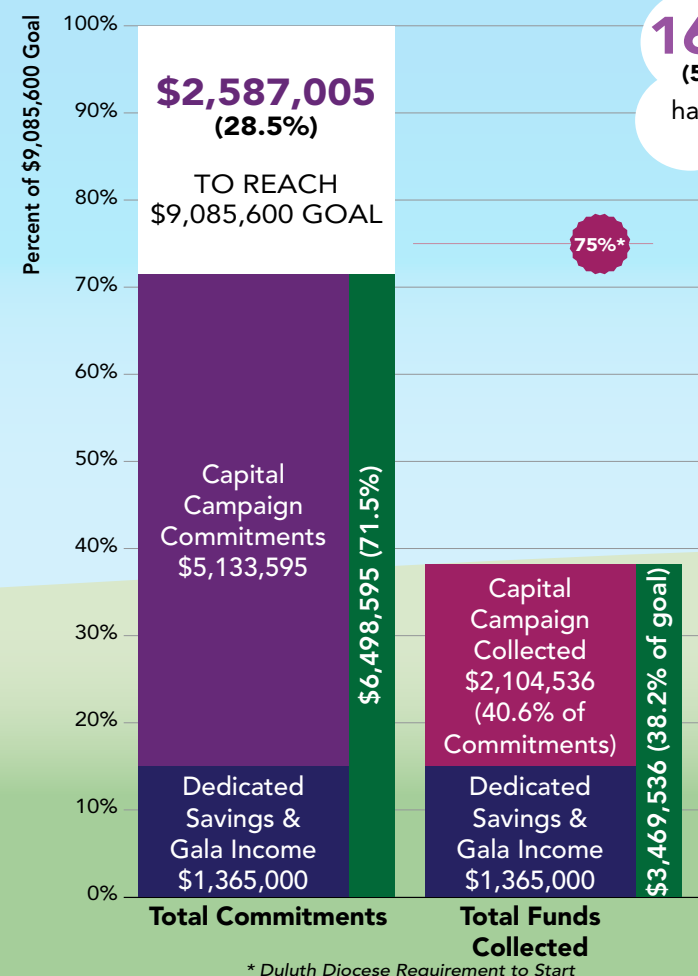
The event wouldn't have been possible without the many parishioners who volunteered their time and talents to make it happen, according to co-chair, Rachel Cady. "It was a privilege and so much fun to work with this wonderful group of people," she said. "Each committee member did their part and then some. The success of the Gala is a blessing from God! Such a gift to celebrate with a wonderful group of Gala guests."





CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of 05/18/2023



SAVE THE DATE MASS AT DEER TRAIL DRIVE

SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2023, AT 10:30 A.M.



Get your lawn chairs ready.
Mass will be at 10:30
under the big tent.



Bring family and friends for the
picnic after Mass. Food will be provided.
Parishioners are encouraged to
bring pies for a pie social.
There will be fun games for all ages.



We hope to enthrone a statue
of St. Joseph on the property.

Stay tuned. Planning is also underway for an event at the
Deer Trail property the evening of Saturday, July 8.