

## COMMENTS HOLY FAMILY MASSES

August 26&27/2023

- The collapse of the Nave ceiling occurred on Sunday, Feb 26/23 just prior to the start of the 9:00 am mass.
- 9:00 mass was moved to the foyer, and 11:00am mass was set up in the basement. We did not miss a mass. Thank You Fr. Wilfred.
- We feel very strongly that we have been an excellent parish, maintaining and improving the facilities for our parishioners. In the last few years, we have replaced the shingles on our roof, not once but twice. We have replaced the 4 furnaces and air conditioners; as well as improving some other aspects of the building. We have repaired the damage to the pastor's condo. We have in the past expanded and modernized the original building by expanding the basement, building a modest kitchen, and adding two full meeting rooms.
- The expansion was our initial effort to modernize and grow our parish. The meeting rooms and kitchen allowed us to provide a wider range of services to our parish community. The cost was approximately \$800K more than 15 years ago. We raised 50% before the project and paid the remaining debt in approximately 5 years.
- Today, we have another opportunity to modernize our parish, establish it as one of the most dynamic, positive, and caring parishes in the city. The collapse of our ceiling has afforded us the opportunity to make some major decisions as to our future.
- Friday, August 25, we met with the Archdiocese's Finance Council to discuss where to go from here. This group asked us some tough questions; highlighting "Do we have a vision & plan for the future!"
- After some further discussion and soul searching on everyone's part; it was unanimous from the group representing our parish that we do have a future, and that we are willing to work hard to identify the vision & develop the plan that will lead us into the future.
- The cost in \$\$\$ is going to be significant. Our initial estimates are that it will be \$1.0 - \$1.3 Million to develop our plan to complete our vision. That vision is going to challenge all of us. We need each of you to assist us in developing the vision and then executing the plan.
- Next week, we start the evaluation process with parish council at their initial fall meeting. We will try to put some broader thought into what we want the parish to be now, but also in the more distant future. What programs do we need to help guide our youth, what services to

provide for our parish, and most importantly how do we continue to be good stewards of the resources and opportunities that God has given to us.

- We are going to be setting up general meetings in September to get input from all of you; however; we need your assistance in getting the word to the many who have fallen by the wayside for whatever reason. Please assist us by contacting friends and family who may not be coming to mass on a regular basis. We want them to be part of this opportunity as well. Let's join together to bring new life to our parish.
- We have had several individuals step forward to lead/champion this project. We have had 2 engineers from the parish volunteer to lead the construction side of the project. Dwayne Gelowitz & Deric Kuntz have kindly stepped forward and offered their expertise and knowledge to lead this initiative, but they have asked me to request that anyone who has experience in drafting tender documents, reading tenders, or managing major construction projects please offer your time and talent to this integral group. We are looking for people to assist Dwayne & Deric in developing this proposal in other areas. If you have experience as an interior designer, we need you to volunteer your knowledge to assist with developing a new modern look for our parish.
- The stronger the team, the broader the functionality and less stress on all our volunteers.
- David Cundall has stepped forward to lead the "Fund Raising Team!" He has asked for volunteers to assist in developing the initial fund-raising plan, and then working with him and the rest of the parish to execute that plan.
- I have asked David, with the assistance of James Lipoth, and a volunteer from the Archdiocese's finance council; to develop an initial plan by the middle of September. This will be a major challenge but one that we require.
- If you have experience in administration, graphics or graphic design, or fund raising on a major scale, we need you now. We have some strong people to lead, but we need many minds and hands to complete the task. Thank you to those that have already stepped forward; for the rest of you now is the time to join your friends in fulfilling our parishes dream.
- Dwayne and his group are going to develop the scope of the renovation & final cost estimates, but we need your input into what we want to look like now and into the future. This is not a one-year fix.

We imagine a new look for the parish when this is all completed. This initiative will take us many years into the future.

- In conclusion, I want to thank everyone in the parish for their ongoing support! We will need everyone pulling together to complete this opportunity.
- Finally, a special thank you to Fr. Wilfred & our parish staff for being a strong guiding force for our parish. Their efforts often go unnoticed by most of us; but their knowledge, strength and will have allowed us to progress through these last few months.
- Now the challenge is OURS!
- Let's make Holy Family Parish all that it can be!