



ST. JOSEPH PARISH & NATIVITY OF THE BVM PARISH

PARISH NEWSLETTER

St. Joseph Parish Church Enhancement Receptions for all parishioners:

Monday, January 21
1:30 p.m.
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 22
7:00 p.m.

All receptions will be held in St. Joseph Church.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

St. Joseph Parish
200 St. Joseph Drive
Amherst, OH 44001
(440) 988-2848
stjosephamherst.com

Nativity of the BVM Parish
333 South Lake Street
South Amherst, OH 44001
(440) 986-7011
nativitysouthamherst.com

January 2019

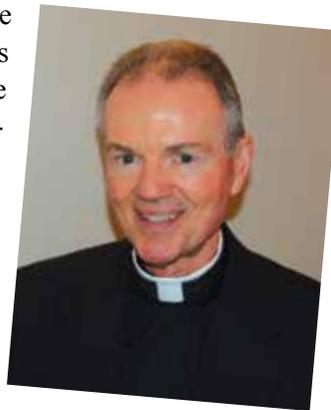
A Letter from Our Pastor

Our St. Joseph Church Enhancement Project

Dear Members of St. Joseph and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parishes,

This January issue of our newsletter is centered on some upcoming plans in St. Joseph Parish so that St. Joseph parishioners can see them up-close and be invited to offer their support. This newsletter also enables Nativity parishioners to know what is going on at St. Joseph. So I invite everyone to take a good look at the information in this newsletter.

As you probably know, St. Joseph Parish is planning an exciting venture. Our beloved church, dedicated in 1970, will celebrate its 50th birthday in 2020. This newsletter is devoted to our “church enhancement” project. I would like to invite you to view in this newsletter: (1) the case statement and (2) some design layouts and renderings as well as (3) a pledge form. All of this is to give St. Joseph parishioners an



opportunity to learn more about and to support our “church enhancement” project.

Rather than describing our plans as “remodeling,” we are actually “enhancing” the lines and layout of our church to emphasize that it truly is a sacred space and to better accommodate those who

gather here to worship God. As you can see here, a number of these improvements will especially benefit our seniors.

Since mid-October, I have been meeting personally with many of our St. Joseph parishioners, asking for their financial support. And I am happy to continue to do this. Our appeal to our entire St. Joseph Parish family will take place with three large receptions on Monday, Jan. 21, at 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m., and on Tuesday, Jan. 22 at 7 p.m.

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ST. JOSEPH CHURCH ENHANCEMENT CASE STATEMENT



LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

St. Joseph Parish in Amherst was founded in 1864. Our first church was located on Tenney Avenue in downtown Amherst and was in use from 1868 until 1956. It was later razed and today the property serves as parking for Amherst Public Library.

Our second church was in use from 1956 until 1970. It was then converted into our gymnasium in our St. Joseph Parish School building.

Our third and present church was dedicated in 1970. It will be 50 years old in 2020. It is the subject of this capital campaign.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH ENHANCEMENT CASE STATEMENT

WHAT WILL BE DONE TO OUR CHURCH?

Our current church was built right after the Second Vatican Council [1962-1965]. Those who designed this building tried to incorporate many of the new ideas from the Council. A number of these were executed well. However, built so soon after the Council, some liturgical ideas had not yet matured. Now, this many years later, there are some refinements that are appropriate so that our beloved church may continue to serve the Lord and the people of St. Joseph Parish well for the next 50 years.

Rather than describing our plans as “remodeling,” we are actually “enhancing” the lines and layout of our church to better accommodate those who gather here to worship God and to emphasize that it truly is a sacred space.

WHY DO THIS NOW?

Anniversaries are very important to the people of St. Joseph Parish. And our church will be 50 years old in 2020. With nearly a half-century of regular use, our church is showing the effects of its age. As our own residences need attention as they grow older, so too does “the house of the Church,” or in Latin, “*domus ecclesiae*,” an ancient name for a church building.

Our church’s 50th birthday is a significant reason for us to celebrate and to “enhance” our beloved church’s functionality and beauty.

WHAT IS INVOLVED?

We would be improving the appearance and the function of the church interior so that it might be devotionally even more inspiring and liturgically even more fitting. We would also be enlarging our gathering area so that it might become our main entrance, with adequate space for us to gather before and after Masses. And throughout this project, we are striving to be as compliant as we can be with ADA guidelines [Americans with Disabilities Act].

WHAT ARE THE CHURCH ENHANCEMENT COMPONENTS?

The Church:

- three accessible restroom facilities have been completed;
- re-lighting the church interior is already underway with LED fixtures;
- the wood ceiling to be treated and cracks in the white surrounding materials to be treated and painted;
- replacing the 20-25 year-old sound system;
- adding an “induction loop hearing system” for the entire church to assist those with hearing devices;
- installing permanent risers for the choir to have a dedicated music area;
- replacing the 20-year-old electronic organ and speakers;
- replacing the worn-out carpeting with marble or a marble-like material in the sanctuary, and with ceramic or ceramic-like material in the body of the church;
- extending the limited sanctuary space, and raising it all one level for better visibility;

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ST. JOSEPH CHURCH ENHANCEMENT CASE STATEMENT

continued from page 3

- the altar, ambo and presidential chair to be on the same level for ease of accessibility;
- the tabernacle would remain at the same height and in the same location;
- concealing with a wooden screen the two sacristy doors in the sanctuary;
- two retractable projection screens permanently installed in the sanctuary;
- adding padding to the pews to make them more comfortable;
- re-arranging some pews so that people with wheel chairs and walkers could sit in the body of the church with their families;
- a wider aisle at the altar for a better flow for the Communion processions;
- remodeling a portion of one of our two “cry/quieting rooms” into a Reconciliation chapel for more accessibility and for privacy for those who need to speak more loudly when going to Confession;
- re-purposing the two small former confessionals into shrine areas with vigil lights;
- a baptismal area inside the main doors of the church to replace the small font currently in the gathering area;
- full on-grade accessibility at the front and rear entrances with automatic door openers.

The Gathering Area:

- push out the back wall to near the edge of the parking area to enlarge this currently small space, and make it the main entrance way;
- include a fully-covered outdoor canopy to shelter those who are being dropped off at the door, and provide space for them to be seated indoors while their drivers park their cars;

External Areas:

- the bell tower and the church steeple are damaged by the weather and will be tended to.

WHAT WOULD THIS CHURCH ENHANCEMENT PROJECT COST?

Here is the financial scope of this project:

- project estimate: \$1,098,280 [via Ziska Architecture] plus 10-12 percent engineering and architectural fees and plus 15 percent contingency funds to be available for unforeseen expenses: *TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$1,394,815*
- money on hand from two estates, marked for this project: \$476,455 [34 percent of the project cost is on hand]
- balance needed to be raised: \$918,360 [66 percent of project cost]

We have one-third of the money already in hand and we are raising the other two-thirds.

If additional funds are raised beyond this project, they would be used to attend to some deferred maintenance items on the St. Joseph Parish campus.

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ST. JOSEPH CHURCH ENHANCEMENT CASE STATEMENT *continued from page 4*

HOW LONG WOULD THIS PROJECT TAKE TO COMPLETE?

We would block out six months for construction time, which could start when we have the full amount pledged and 50 percent of the funds in hand. We would begin with the church and when it is completed we would then move on to the gathering area expansion.

We are fortunate to have available St. Joseph Social Hall and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in South Amherst for weekend Masses, and Nativity Church for funerals and weddings.

WHAT IS THE REDEMPTION PERIOD FOR OUR PLEDGES AND GIFTS?

This capital campaign is being done in-house, saving outside consultation fees. We would like to collect as much of the funds as possible during the first year. But parishioners are welcome to extend their pledge payments over 24 months.

We will not go into any long-term debt for this project. And collecting as much of the pledge funds as possible during the first year will save us interest on any short-term loans.

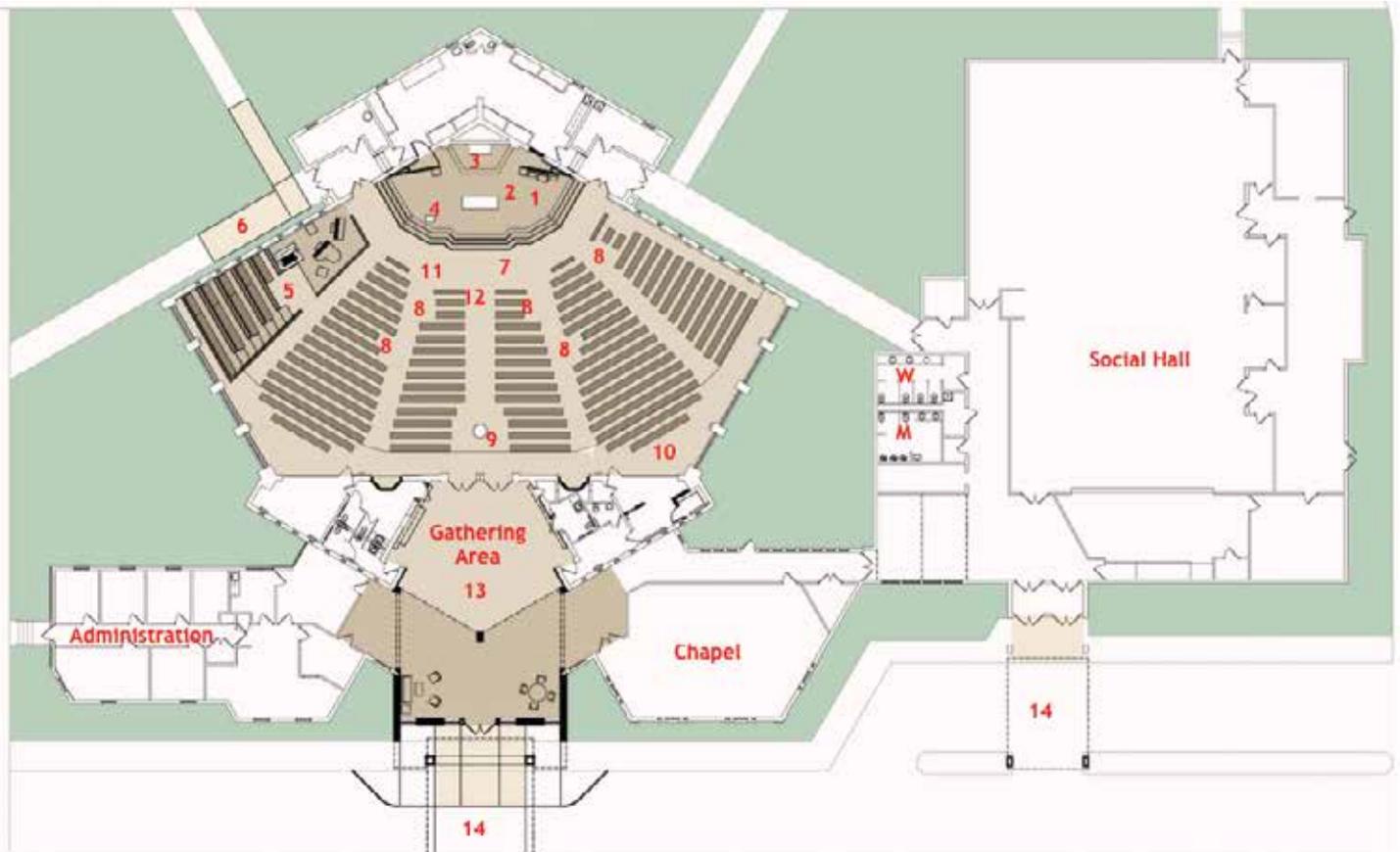
At the end of 24 months, our plan is to have the entire project costs paid for and no debt to remain.

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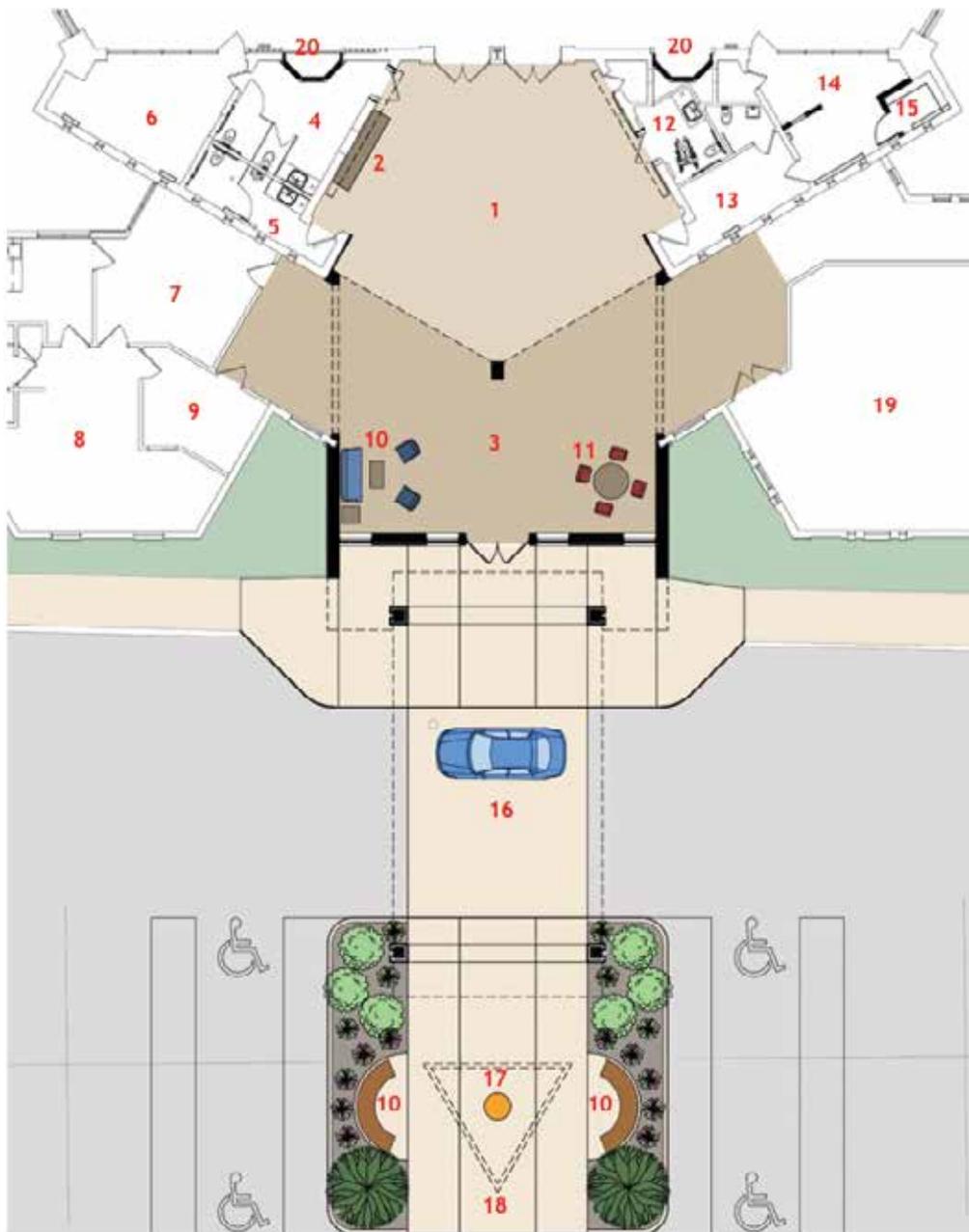
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH ENHANCEMENT CASE STATEMENT

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1. Raise Altar Platform One Step
2. Altar
3. Tabernacle
4. Ambo
5. New Choir Area
6. Replace Existing Concrete
7. Enlarge Front Aisle
8. Accessible Seating Location
9. Baptismal
10. New Lighting
11. Personal Listening Device System Throughout
12. New Tile Throughout
13. Expanded Gathering Area (See Enlarged Plan)
14. New Covered Drop-Off Canopy

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH ENHANCEMENT CASE STATEMENT *continued from page 6*



1. Existing Gathering Area
2. New Counter and Cabinets
3. Expanded Gathering Area
4. Women's Toilet
5. Men's Toilet
6. Cry Room
7. Conference Room
8. Administration
9. Waiting / Reception
10. Sitting Area
11. Meeting Area
12. Family Toilet
13. Sacristy
14. Reconciliation Chapel
15. Closet
16. Covered Drop-Off Area
17. Easter Fire
18. Bell Tower
19. Existing Chapel
20. Shrine Alcove

St. Joseph Church Enhancement Pledge

Prospect Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____ **2nd Phone #:** _____

Email address: _____

I/we pledge to the St. Joseph Church Enhancement Campaign as follows:

Amount of Pledge: \$ _____

Initial Payment:

Initial Payment: \$ _____

Date received _____

Balance: \$ _____

Please indicate type of initial payment:

(Cash, Check, Other)

Monthly Statements will be sent.

I will pay my pledge by:

_____ Check

_____ Cash

_____ myEoffering

_____ Stock

_____ Planned Gift

Pledge will be paid in full in:

_____ 12 months

_____ 24 Months

All campaign pledges to be paid in full
by January 31, 2021.

My company matches gifts: Name of Company _____

Special Instructions: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

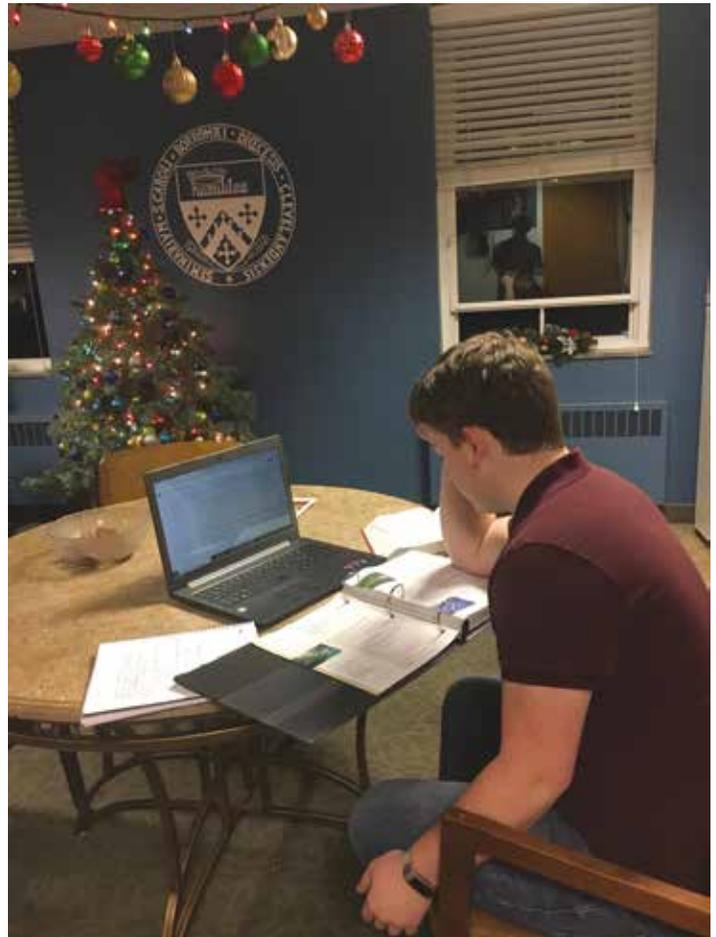
Book Smart, Street Smart, Soul Smart

By NATHAN FRANKART

Pease of Christ to you! I can happily report to all of you that I successfully finished the fall semester without any mental breakdowns. I will be returning for my spring semester starting Jan. 11. I am incredibly eager to enter back into the community and continue my studies! I will return to begin a silent retreat that lasts that entire weekend — please keep me in your prayers during that time especially!

I wanted to take a deeper dive into the intellectual side of discerning priesthood, because I believe it is becoming more beautiful the longer I am living here at Borromeo. The common joke that I hear from friends goes like this, “Hey Nathan, how is priest school going?” Other than being a tad overdone, I believe it reveals how people prepare for occupations and jobs. As I am studying, I am not just learning how to celebrate Mass, practice the sacraments, and give effective homilies. If that’s all I was required to do, I suspect it wouldn’t take very long to become ordained. Serving God’s people stretches far beyond just “do what’s in red, say what’s in black” as the *Roman Missal* instructs. My studies in philosophy and basic theology aim at seeing past the ordinary and peer into the extraordinary. Through courses that focus on human psychology and other social sciences, I hope to understand more about basic human rights, ethics, and how to relate, understand and reach out to all peoples. Finally, I will study courses of advanced theology further along at the seminary — courses that deal in the human condition, the soul’s disposition in grace and sin, and on the nature of God and the Trinity. However, unless I put this knowledge into practice, I would be no better than the Pharisees! Christ imparted His knowledge to the crowds of Israel to lift their minds towards the Divine, something all priests must also do for their parishes.

The Lord does not always call the most gifted intellectually to serve Him (I can personally attest to that). However, Christ does wish for us to grow in our understanding of Him and the world around us. Wisdom will guide our minds and direct our hearts towards the Almighty, Source of all beauty, perfection and knowledge. May we deepen in our learning of the great mystery of our faith!



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& ST. JOSEPH PARISH & NATIVITY OF THE BVM PARISH

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200 St. Joseph Drive, Amherst, OH 44001

Address Service Requested

Fr. Tim O'Connor Serving Both Parishes

Mass:

Monday, 9:00 a.m. - *St. Joseph*

Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. - *Nativity of the BVM*

Thursday, 7:00 p.m. - *St. Joseph*

Friday, 9:00 a.m. - *St. Joseph*

Saturday, 4:00 p.m. - *St. Joseph*

5:30 p.m. - *Nativity of the BVM*

Sunday, 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m. - *St. Joseph*

Confession at St. Joseph:

Thursday - Individual Reconciliation 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Saturday - Individual Reconciliation 11:00 a.m. - noon

Eucharistic Adoration (Chapel) at Nativity of the BVM:

Monday-Friday 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

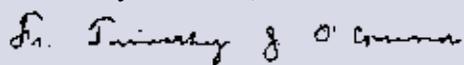
Emphasizing the Sacred Space of Our St. Joseph Church *continued from front cover*

These receptions will all take place in the church. If you have not already met with me, would you please reserve a space on your calendar for one of these three parish reception dates?

I invite you to take a good look at the "church enhancement" materials in this newsletter. They can also be found by visiting the homepage of the parish website at stjosephamherst.com.

In the meantime, my prayers and my gratitude are with you all.

Gratefully in Christ,



Fr. Timothy J. O'Connor,
Pastor

