

“The Christian disciple is one who responds to Christ’s call, follows Jesus and shapes their lives in imitation of Christ.” - U.S. Catholic Bishops

- ◆ In 1848 German Catholic families in and around Alpine Township began constructing a mission chapel at the corner of Baumhoff and Five Mile Road?
- ◆ In 1901, over 50 years after the construction of the first church, the rectory was finished?
- ◆ The last German-speaking pastor, Father Charles Bolte, was installed on July 1, 1923, and remained until his retirement in 1964?
- ◆ The third church built as Holy Trinity, was constructed in 1957?
- ◆ Not 10 years after the church was constructed, a tornado destroyed the church on Palm Sunday in 1965?
- ◆ A new and current church with the attached rectory was blessed on May 5, 1968?

Did you know???



Holy Trinity Parish
1200 Alpine Church Rd. NW
Comstock Park, MI 49321-9761
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Comstock Park, Mich.
Permit No. 42



Living and Giving with Faith

Capital Stewardship Campaign

Special Edition Campaign Newsletter

October 2013

“We’re Starting A Very Important Campaign”

Holy Trinity was founded in 1848. The original church was a small wooden structure that was built on three acres at Five Mile and Baumhoff Rd. The second church was built in 1883 on four acres at the corner of Cordes and Alpine Church Rd. The third church was built in 1956 and was destroyed by a tornado just nine years later on Palm Sunday, April 11, 1965. The fourth and current church was completed in 1968 with the narthex added in 1998.

For over 160 years, Holy Trinity Parish continues *under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to dedicate ourselves to living the Good News of Jesus Christ, through faith, community worship, commitment and lifelong conversion.*

Our parish has a long history of being good stewards of the facilities while ensuring the continuation and growth of the Catholic faith in the parish, the school, and outreach to the community. Our church steeple, which stands as a witness of this Catholic Community’s commitment to spreading the Gospel message, is in serious disrepair and must be addressed. Because the steeple is also central to our ventilation system, air conditioning can cost effectively be incorporated and make our church more hospitable. After much analysis and study, a design and plan has been developed and approved by both the steeple task force and finance council.

During the next several months, a thoughtfully planned campaign will occupy the time and talents of many of our parishioners. Achieving our goal will be an important task, and if each of you will accept a small part of the task, we will get the job done!

You will have an opportunity to serve on one of several campaign teams that will be organized. As you become involved you will learn how important this campaign is to Holy Trinity Parish. A member of one of the teams may call you and ask for your help and you won’t have to talk to someone else about money. So when you are asked to help, **please say YES!**

Our “*Living and Giving with Faith*” capital stewardship campaign requires not just a few of our parishioners, but every parishioner to pray, consider sacrifice, and support this important campaign. Because each of us are blessed differently and capable of different gifts, we are each asked to financially support this campaign accordingly. What you give should be *over and above* your regular giving.

No one will tell you what to give toward this campaign—that is between you and the Lord. “*Living and Giving with Faith*” only asks that you pray and make a sacrificial gift according to how you’ve been blessed—act as the Lord leads. A new church steeple and air conditioning is our goal, and Christ is our reason and example.

Fr. Tom Simons
Pastor

Steve & Laurie Alt Don & Karen Baker
Campaign Co-Chairs

THE NUMBERS



PROJECTED COSTS

Steeple structure/skylight	\$245,000
Steeple light and electrical	\$ 20,000
Construction of steeple base enclosure	\$ 10,000
Crane use in erecting steeple	\$ 10,000
Conceptual design fees	\$ 7,000
Design/engineering fees	\$ 5,000
Contractor fees	\$ 40,000
Air conditioning and HVAC	\$100,000
Screen wall around narthex rooftop units	\$ 10,000
Structural reinforcement—rooftop units	\$ 5,000
Contingencies & other misc. costs	\$ 98,000
Total	\$550,000

Some QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Q. How much do we need to raise?**
A. It is our prayerful hope that our parish family will raise \$550,000 in a 3-year capital campaign.
- Q. Is the steeple currently a safety risk?**
A. It is seriously deteriorated but not dangerously so. Being proactive to address the problem ensures it won't become a safety hazard.
- Q. How much will I be asked to give?**
A. You will not be told to give a specific amount. Everyone is asked to first reflect on their individual blessings and then pray about a *sacrificial* commitment to be paid over three years. Your commitment should be *over and above* your current giving to the church.
- Q. What does "sacrificial" mean?**
A. Sacrificial giving is a personal act of giving generously of yourself or your resources as a way of giving back to God for God's immeasurable generosity to you. Sacrificial giving sometimes means a change in your lifestyle in order to give generously.
- Q. How do I decide what I should commit to our capital stewardship campaign?**
A. Prayer and reflection! One of the campaign themes is "Not Equal Gifts, but Equal Sacrifice." Everyone is blessed differently. Everyone cannot give the same amount. But, if your gift is *truly sacrificial*...then the gifts are equal in the sight of God. *"...but each of you with as much as you can give, in proportion to the blessings which the Lord, your God, has bestowed on you."* Deuteronomy 16:17

Consider this:

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. Moreover, God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: "He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever." The one who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You are being enriched in every way for all generosity, which through us produces thanksgiving to God. 2 Corinthians 9:6-11



But just as you abound in everything, in faith and utterance and knowledge and in all earnestness and in the love we inspired in you, see that you abound in this gracious work also. 2 Corinthians 8:7

What is a capital stewardship campaign?

The process to raise the needed funds for our new Steeple and Air Conditioning. The campaign focuses on keeping everyone informed, answering questions and providing spiritual food for thought.

You'll receive mailings and be invited to presentations to learn more about the plans and how important your participation in this campaign is to the future of our parish.

Each of us will be asked to prayerfully consider a 3-year sacrificial commitment *over and above* our annual offertory support. No one will be pressured or told how much to give. Each of us are asked to give according to our blessings.



Everyone is needed!

We can accomplish all of this.....

- Without anyone being pressured to ask others for pledges or money.
- Without asking anyone to give more personal time than is reasonable.

If We all Help—

We can do it!

Not Equal Gifts—

But, Equal Sacrifice

What is the result of living as a steward and disciple? The promise is a beautiful one. Jesus says in Matthew 25:23,

"COME AND SHARE YOUR MASTER'S JOY."

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If everyone accepts a small task, then together we can achieve our common goal! Here is a quick list of teams that are being assembled to help with the campaign. **When asked, please say "YES" to assist with the campaign.** Or, call Beth & Dan Alt at 784-0389 to volunteer. Don't worry, no one will be asked to discuss, or talk to someone else about money.

Contact Team

A contact team will be built to make courtesy phone calls to parishioners prior to scheduled information meetings simply to ensure awareness and encourage attendance.

Presentation Team

The presentation team will develop an informational presentation that will be shared with all parishioners to ensure everyone is fully informed of all the details.

Children and Youth Activities

The children and youth team will seek to get the children and youth involved in the campaign with activities to ensure their understanding and help them appreciate their God-given gifts to reinforce their learning about stewardship.

Mailing Team

A mailing team will be responsible to fold, stuff, label, etc. all campaign mailings.

Event (Commitment Weekend) Team

The team will plan, organize and coordinate all activities associated with commitment weekend to help make it a special/enjoyable time.

Commitment Team

The commitment team will phone parishioners who have not yet made their intention known following commitment weekend simply to encourage them to register their intention. No one will be asked to convince anyone to participate.