

Together in



Faith and Fellowship

Together in Faith and Fellowship

Dear St Joseph Parishioners,

"To grow as "the people of God" (church) we need a campus that fully supports every aspect of the communal, faith-filled life that we are called to as disciples of Jesus Christ." - Our Stairway Vision



The world defines a "church" as "a building for public Christian worship." But that is not how Catholics define "church." We define it as the coming together of the people of God. Whenever we come together, whether it is at Mass, at the Festival, for a bible study or at coffee and donuts, we are "church." Jesus told us, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." He did not limit such gatherings to Mass.

We are blessed to have a beautiful and functional space in which to come together and share the sacraments. We call it the Country Church. That building fully supports our being a warm and welcoming community. But being a warm and welcoming community should not be limited to an hour on the weekend.

That is why this capital campaign "**Together in Faith & Fellowship**" is so critical. With the exception of the village church, all the other village buildings that we use to support our mission as "church" are not handicap-accessible.

- They are quickly losing their ability to provide a safe, comfortable, and adequate environment to gather as "the people of God."
- They are quickly losing their ability to allow us to gather as "church" in all those other ways that we need to gather to grow in our knowledge and love of God.
- They are quickly becoming an obstacle to easily invite and care for those in need.

The time has come to finish what we started in 2003. We began with a vision of a unified campus. We need a campus that not only provides space to share in the sacraments but space to support the education, fellowship, and administration necessary to allow us to continue to be the vibrant and growing Catholic church which has touched the lives of hundreds of thousands of Catholics and non-Catholics the last 181 years.

This past spring, members of the parish Finance Council and Stairway Committee and other parish leadership met to refine our vision for a united campus. In May, we presented our vision to the Diocese of Lansing Loan and Investment Committee. In June, the Diocese of Lansing Finance Council recommended we hold a fall campaign to secure gifts and pledges to raise necessary funds. This will allow us to design and build a hall, kitchen, classrooms, and offices to move us toward a unified campus.

This FACT sheet provides important information about this effort. At each Mass on the weekend of September 18/19 we will have brief presentations about our **Together in Faith & Fellowship** campaign, including details of our facility plans and a call to prayer by our faith family for the success of this effort. We will also have information at our parish picnic on September 11/12. We are excited to share the plans and answer any questions you may have.

If you are unable to attend the weekend of September 18/19, informational presentations will again be available following the 5p Mass on October 2 and 11a Mass on October 17.

As we start our **Together in Faith & Fellowship** campaign, every household is asked to reflect prayerfully upon your blessings and ask yourself how you are using them to glorify God. We need each of you to help our parish.

Shalom,

Fr. Brendan J. Walsh
Pastor

John and Sherri Goff
Campaign Co-Chairs

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PARISH HISTORY 1840-2021



Founded in 1840 when eight Irish Catholic families gathered to celebrate Mass on January 1, 1840. St. Joseph Parish has been a vibrant, active part of the Dexter community for more than 175 years.

FIRST CHURCH—1840

- Mission Church for Irish immigrants
- Small frame building corner of Dexter Townhall and Quigley Roads
- Destroyed by fire in 1854

SECOND CHURCH

- Framed Church (temporary) on the corner of 4th & Dover in Village of Dexter.
- This church was dismantled when 3rd church was dedicated.

THIRD CHURCH — 1872

- Brick Gothic architecture with 180 ft. steeple
- Still used for daily Mass, weddings and funerals
- Seats 350
- Rectory built in 1904
- Parish school established in 1920
- New brick school built in 1925. School closed in 1968. Converted to parish center in the 1980's.
- Convent built in 1952. Converted to parish offices in 1980's. Second floor offices reconfigured twice between 2000-2010.

FOURTH CHURCH — 2008

- Country Church
- Seats 750
- Expandable to 900 seats
- Move walls to expand seating to 1,000

2021— Currently have 2 campuses

- Village Church at the corner of 4th & Dover. Parish center, parish office and rectory on village campus.
- Country Church sits on 46 acres at the corner of Mast & North Territorial Roads

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A CHRONOLOGY OF OUR STAIRWAY PLANNING TO DATE

- **2000:** More than 300 parishioners participated in VOICES (Vocalizing Opportunities, Issues, Challenges & Envisioning Strategies) sessions, initiated by Diocese of Lansing, and identified three needs: respond to continued growth of area; strengthen and improve Faith Formation for all; invite fallen away Catholics and non-Catholics.
- **2001:** Identified and researched current and projected parish growth. Recommended purchasing land and moving to a new site.
- **Fall 2001:** Four town hall meetings held to inform parishioners and seek input.
- **April 2002:** Purchased 46 acres of land at the SW corner of North Territorial & Mast Roads in Webster Township.
- **May 2002:** Convened a group of parishioners, our “Stairway Committee,” to begin studying *Built of Living Stones*, a document which gives guidance and direction on building new churches.
- **September 2002:** Received permission from the Diocese to initiate a capital campaign.
- **August & September 2003:** Adopted a phased approach: Phase I – the church; Phase II – office space, faith formation classrooms, meeting spaces and a parish hall.
- **August & September 2003:** A total of 440 parishioners participated in eight focus group sessions to educate and inform and to gauge potential support for the plan.
- **Fall 2003 – Spring 2006:** The “Stairway to the Future” capital campaign, raised over **\$3.34 million** in gifts and pledges.
- **March 2005:** Held ceremonial groundbreaking on Feast of St. Joseph.
- **December 2005:** Began *Called to the Next Step* capital campaign. Raised **\$1.65 million** in pledges and gifts.
- **August 2006:** Actually broke ground and began construction.
- **March 15, 2008:** Dedicated new church building on the Feast of St. Joseph, (Saturday of Palm Sunday weekend.)
- **Fall 2009:** Began *Step Up in Faith* capital stewardship campaign. Raised over **\$2.23 million** in commitments.
- **Fall 2012:** Continuing the Journey campaign raised **\$1.97 million** in gifts and pledges.
- **July 2002 – March 2021:** Received Memorial Fund donations of **\$1.67 million** and miscellaneous Building Fund donations totaling **\$483,171**.
- **February 2003 – Sept 2020:** Annual Festivals raised **\$1.3 million**.
- **August 2006-June 2018:** Annual Silent Auction Fundraisers have raised **\$206,818**.
- **October 2015:** Made final loan payment to the Diocese of Lansing. **Loan paid off in year 7 of a 15 year note.**

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What are we building?

- A hall for parish events
- A kitchen for funeral lunches and parish meals
- Classrooms for faith formation
- Offices that do not have steps

Why are we building?

- To complete our goal of a united campus
- To strengthen our community spirit, giving us a place to gather for fellowship and friendship
- Our parish offices and parish center are not easily accessible for persons with disabilities

What is our goal?

- To strengthen our parish community life
- To have a place for Catholic youth
- To gather for fun and friendship
- To grow together in our Catholic faith
- To offer more adult formation activities

What will happen to the Village Church?

- The Village Church will continue to be used for daily Mass, weddings and funerals

What will happen to the Village Parish Center and Office?

- These buildings are antiquated and not handicap-accessible. They need to be removed and converted to extra parking for Village Church events.

How much do we have in hand?

- \$3,350,000

How much do we need to raise?

- \$6,500,000

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CAMPAIGN TIMELINE

Preparation Phase	Gathering of church families. Building teams for our Campaign.
Information Phase <i>September 18 - October 17</i>	Disseminate information about project plans, information meetings and answer questions ensuring full awareness.
Prayer Phase	Everyone prayerfully reflect on their individual blessings and discern a three-year significant and proportionate pledge, over and above current church tithe/support.
Commitment Phase <i>November 6 - November 28</i>	Everyone registering their confidential three-year pledge.
December 4/5	Announcement and celebration of what has been pledged to our campaign.

NOT EQUAL GIFTS, RATHER EQUAL SACRIFICE!

The chart illustrates the types of three-year pledges (over and above regular giving) needed to reach our financial goal. The participation of every person in our church family is needed.

Gifts Needed	Prospects Needed	Gift Level	Level Total	Possible Payment Options			Cumulative Total
				Monthly	Quarterly	Annually	
TIER 1							
1	2	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 27,778	\$ 83,333	\$ 333,333	\$ 1,000,000
1	2	500,000	500,000	13,889	41,667	166,667	1,500,000
2	4	250,000	500,000	6,944	20,833	83,333	2,000,000
5	10	100,000	500,000	2,778	8,333	33,333	2,500,000
TIER 2							
10	20	\$ 75,000	\$ 750,000	\$ 2,083	\$ 6,250	\$ 25,000	\$ 3,250,000
15	30	50,000	750,000	1,389	4,167	16,667	4,000,000
20	40	25,000	500,000	694	2,083	8,333	4,500,000
25	50	15,000	375,000	417	1,250	5,000	4,875,000
35	70	10,000	350,000	278	833	3,333	5,225,000
TIER 3							
50	100	\$ 7,500	\$ 375,000	\$ 208	\$ 625	\$ 2,500	\$ 5,600,000
75	150	5,000	375,000	139	417	1,667	5,975,000
100	200	3,000	300,000	83	250	1,000	6,275,000
150	300	1,500	225,000	42	125	500	6,500,000



St. Joseph Parish
3430 Dover St.
Dexter, Mi 48130

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To St. Joseph our Patron, mentor and guide:

We call on you as we take a new step in Faith and Fellowship, as a loving, caring and growing Catholic community.

Be our Pillar of Strength, as we embrace our Call and Challenge, to complete our vision of a united campus.

Send us your courage as we reverence our past, embrace the promise of the present and hope for tomorrow, as we continue on our Stairway to the Future.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.