

What's the Latest?

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Consensus Reached on St. Joe Hill Site



St. John Paul II Parish held a parish assembly on May 17, 2015. The purpose of the assembly was four-fold. First, we reviewed what had brought us to that day. Second, we heard a report from the architectural firms of Kovert-Hawkins and Entheos about the four location options they were asked to study. Third, we answered questions and addressed the concerns of those present. Finally, we asked for the input of all present as to which option or options they could support as the location for the future St. John Paul II Church and School.

Eighty-five percent (85%) of those giving input said they could support locating at the St. Joe Hill Campus. "I was a little bit surprised that the number was so high," said Fr. Tom Clegg, pastor. "I expected the St. Joe Hill Site to be the highest %, but I wasn't sure we would reach the 75% needed for consensus. And I never expected it to be 85%." The other sites received the following support: St. Paul (25%), Silver Creek (22%) and Salem Nobel (11%).

"With this clear consensus," stated Fr. Tom, "we now move forward with our next steps." The first step after the assembly was to present this information to the parish pastoral council. They received

this information at their meeting on May 26. They voted unanimously (10-0) to make a request to Archbishop Tobin that we now move to the next phase of the process. That letter was sent and the Archbishop did give his approval for us to begin the master planning process.

The next phase will be the Master Plan Study that will now focus on the St. Joe Hill location. The Master Plan will be more detailed and will include shape and sizes of buildings, locations of buildings, assigning phases of the project (what we build first, what we build second, etc.), and doing a financial feasibility study to see what we might be able to raise in a 3-year capital campaign.

It is hard to give a timeline on how quickly a comprehensive master plan will be developed. Portions of this plan will include the architects interviewing key ministry leaders in the parish. These will include but are not limited to: Pastoral Council, Finance Council, maintenance staff, teachers, parents, liturgy leaders, kitchen staff and volunteers, and pastoral team members. The scope of the project will be:

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Location Chosen

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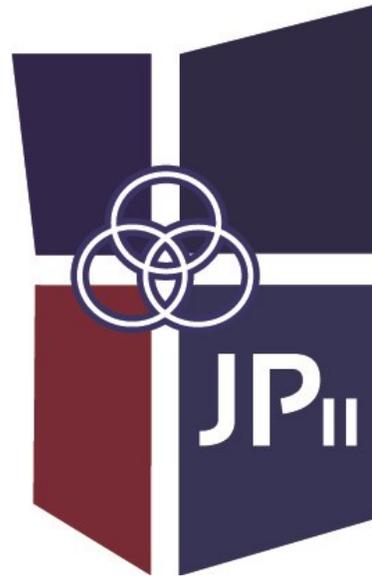
- Church to seat between 750-900
- Elementary School (Pre-K through Grade 8) for up to 360 children
- Parish and School Offices
- Parish Hall
- Daycare Facility
- Parking and other site amenities to accommodate Parish and School needs

The **Comprehensive Master Plan** will document the interviews and develop a **Facility Program**. They will also develop **options** for the Building Planning Team to consider for all the major components. They will further develop a **project budget** and a **phasing plan** that will be needed to meet the project goals within the parish's fiscal capabilities. Finally, they will develop a **project schedule** for the entire project.

The Building Planning Team has chosen to continue to utilize the services of the architectural firms of Kovert-Hawkins and Entheos to develop our Master Plan. Michael Eagen and John Hawkins, lead architects on the project, emphasized to us that they hope to involve the parish in this process. There should be at least two different times in this process where parish-wide meetings will be held to gather input from the parish and to make sure we are heading in the right direction to meet our parish's needs.

Finally, this portion of the project will also include a financial feasibility study to help us determine the fiscal possibilities of the parish for such a project.

"I'm excited about entering this next phase of the project," said Fr. Tom. "we have accomplished a lot already and with God's help we will see this project through to its completion."



Our Parish Logo Explained

The basis of the logo, the crest, was created to be similar to St. John Paul II's papal crest. His papal crest was blue with a cross set off center to the left with the letter "M" at the base of the cross. This "M" symbolized his devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. So, as you can see, the crest for our parish has an off center cross, and "JPII" for St. John Paul II. (It is interesting to note that the "J" and the "P" are also reminders of our two original parishes.) The three circles are well known as a symbol of the trinity. On this crest, they also represent the joining of the two original parishes into a new third parish. The colors of navy blue and burgundy will be used throughout the ministries of our parish. These colors will also be incorporated into our school uniforms and also our new mascot, the Knights!



I know well the plans I have in mind for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not your woe, so as to give you a future full of hope.

Jeremiah 29:11

Frequently Asked Questions

By Fr. Tom Clegg

A Note from Fr. Tom: In each issue of "What's the Latest?" I will write a column called "Frequently Asked Questions." These will be questions I have heard. I believe the question one person asks is often shared by others.

Q. What's this new church going to look like? I don't want it to be too modern. I want it to look like a church! Or...What's this new church going to look like? Remember, we are not creating a museum to remember the past; we are creating a place to worship God today!

A. I put these two questions together because they highlight the different thoughts people have in regard to church buildings being built in the 21st century. The short answer is that I have no idea what our new church will look like at this time. Since last fall, we have been publishing in the bulletin guidelines from the U.S. Bishops on the construction of churches. I encourage you to continue reading them as these will be the principles we will use to guide our actions throughout this process.

Because our church buildings are so important to us, and because people have very different thoughts about what makes a church a church, building a church can be a difficult time for a parish. However, it can also be a time of great community building and accomplishment. What we always need to remember is that as long as we seek God, God will be with us through this process. God will guide our thoughts, deliberations, and decisions. And with God's help, we can build a worship space that serves us well and gives glory to God.

Q. Fr. Tom, I worry about the amount of money that we will be spending on these new buildings, especially when there are so many needs in our world today. Are all of these new buildings the best use of our resources?

A. Thanks for a great question! We live in a world that has lots of needs. Each day we have to make decisions regarding our proper stewardship of the resources God has entrusted to our care. In this sense, your question raises some important issues that we need to address.

For me, one of the important things to consider is why we are doing this project in the first place. We are doing this not for ourselves but for generations to come. The Catholic Church has always responded to the needs of the times. In 1853, as Clark County was growing out from the river, it became evident that a new church was needed. Your ancestors responded to that need and St. Joseph Hill Church was built. In 1948, the town of Sellersburg was growing and it became evident that there was a need for a church to be built "in town." Once again, your ancestors (and some of you!) responded to that need and St. Paul Parish was built. Now, our needs have changed again. The signs of the times point to a need for a unified community.

Now is our time to respond. Once again, not for ourselves but so that our children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren will have a place to worship God. So I think we can make the case for this being good stewardship of the resources entrusted to our care.

At the very same time, however, I do not want us to go through this project thinking only of ourselves and our wants and our needs. I once heard of a parish community that at the same time they were building their Church also built a Church in a developing nation. I know of another parish that at the same time they built their Church they also built a house through Habitat for Humanity. Perhaps something like this would help us to not only build a Church home for St. John Paul II Parish but will, at the very same time, keep us mindful of our mission to make disciples of all nations and our call to serve God through serving the poor as well.

Once again, thanks for asking the question. And let all of us keep asking these types of questions because they help us to make sure we are following God's will throughout the process.

Q. When will we start construction on the new Church?

A. We have just begun the next phase of our project which is the development of our Master Plan (see article on pages 1 and 2). We anticipate that this development of the Master Plan might take about 4-6 months. Simultaneously with the Master Plan, we will also begin exploring what we might be able to raise in a 3-year capital campaign. This is called a Financial Feasibility Study. After both of these are completed we will once again seek the approval from the Archdiocese to move to the next step of the project which would be a capital campaign. Another thing to keep in mind is that this project will be done in phases. What will be "phase 1" has not yet been determined. The master planning process will help us answer that question.

In any case, while we are in the process of raising the money to fund whatever we choose to be phase 1 of the project, we will also begin to move further into the design phase for whatever we choose to build first.

Once again, one of the requirements of the diocese is that you have 50% of the money needed for the project in hand and the other 50% pledged before we can begin any construction. All of that to say we are still many, many months (maybe a couple of years) away from breaking ground on any new building.

Parish to Inaugurate Newsletter

Keeping Parishioners Informed about All Aspects of Parish Life

Now that the decision has been made to become St. John Paul II and the location has been selected, the “What’s the Latest?” Newsletter is going to shift its purpose. The purpose of the newsletter now will be to not only keep you informed of what is going on in the process of our building project, but also to keep you informed with stories about the life of our parish. Are you a budding journalist? If so, we could use your help. Are you a photographer? Once again, we need your help.

We are currently looking for writers who are willing to talk to parishioners about what is going on in their ministries and in their lives. Then, taking this information, craft articles about these ministries and people. We are not looking for a glorified bulletin, but something that digs deeper into the life of our parish. We are also looking for photographers who might go out and take pictures so that each article has “art” to go with it. If you think that might be something you would be willing to try, please contact Fr. Tom at t.clegg@twc.com.

And if you know something about layout that might help us produce a quality newsletter, we need your help, too. Once again, contact Fr. Tom at t.clegg@twc.com. This newsletter will be published 6 times a year.

New Parish Council Members Choose to Serve

Three parishioners were recently elected to serve as members of the parish pastoral council. Their three-year terms began July 1, 2015. New members include Keith Alexander, Dan Moore and Wayne Rieger.



Keith Alexander

Keith Alexander says his sole reason for running for parish council is to serve our parish. St. Paul explains in Romans 12:1-8 (his favorite verse) that we all have different gifts to offer and together, with our gifts, we make up the body of Christ. “I think this exciting time in our parish,” he said, “And I look forward to the work ahead of us.”

Dan Moore has been in our parish for more than 15 years. He believes that his work as an attorney, and especially his work in collective decision making will be an asset to our council as the parish moves forward in our unification process. “I think St. John Paul II Parish a very special place in Indiana,” he said recently, “The atmosphere and commitment of our parish to friendship and positive thinking makes it a great place to be.”



Dan Moore

Wayne Rieger considers this parish home. He and his wife Debbie were members of St. Paul and are now charter (founding) members of St. John Paul II (as we all are). “I have served the parish through the Haiti Ministry, Exit Zero and the St. Joseph the Worker program,” he said. “Now I’d like to serve the parish as a whole through my role on the Parish Pastoral Council.”



Wayne Rieger

We welcome our newest council members and also thank those whose term on the council is complete: Thad Adams, Alan Quinkert, and Jane White. We thank you for your service and all you have been for the council and for our parish family.