



## TESTIMONIALS

“We were taught from our earliest years that charity and service to others was fundamental to our Catholic faith. We can't imagine a cause more worthy than ensuring we always have a safe and inviting place to gather, demonstrate and develop our faith. We want our children to witness and learn from our sacrifice and commitment to our parish.

Dr. Kevin and Mary Riley  
*General Co-Chairs*

This campaign will serve as a legacy for generations to come.

Larry and Terry Feldhacker,  
*Honorary Chairs*

Our campaign to build a new Parish Center gives us the opportunity to continue and expand our ministries and build for the future.

Deacon Joe and Helen Krajicek  
*Honorary Chairs*

## MISSION STATEMENT

*We, the community of St. Patrick's, are a diverse people of faith, committed to using our variety of gifts to serve the Lord and one another through worship, faith, formation, education, and outreach to the community. Through this, we strive to be a sign of Christ's presence in the world, making visible the kingdom of God.*

## CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP

*Pastor*  
Father Michael Grewe

*Honorary Chairs*  
Larry & Terry Feldhacker  
Deacon Joe and Helen Krajicek  
Eleanor Pratt

*General Co-Chairs*  
Deacon Steve & Rose Grandinetti  
Dave & Theresa Gulizia

Jim Hain  
Bob & Jan Ostdiek  
Kevin & Mary Riley

*Campaign Counsel*  
Tom Crowley  
The Steier Group

### *Campaign Steering Committee*

Jim & Cynthia Barnes  
Duane & Debra Benes  
Rich & Amy Beran  
Pat & Ann Cockerill  
Scott & Ginny Debates  
Ken & Lee Dostal  
Dave & Pat Gilmore

Greg & Laura Grundmayer  
Michelle Gustafson  
Larry & Pat Hansen  
John & Ann Hawkins  
Bob & Judy Huber  
Kevin & Michelle Methe  
Greg & Carrie Reitmeier

Tina Schutte  
Doug & Deniz Stark  
Pat & Janelle Vipond  
Mike & Monica Wear  
Judy Weier  
Jim & Frances Weis  
Bob Zych



Over the last several years our Parish Pastoral Council has been discussing the tremendous growth of the parish. We have been blessed to receive so many new parishioners who bring a multitude of gifts and talents with them. They also bring a deep sense of gratitude to our earlier parishioners who built our large, beautiful church.

## A LETTER FROM FATHER GREWE

Now, however, we realize that our other facilities are not up to the task of handling our bigger numbers. With our increase in children we desperately need more classroom space. This is obviously our first priority. We will do everything in our power to successfully hand on our faith to them.

Secondly, we need a new parish center. Our current building has been a real blessing to this community for seventy years, but now it is proving to be more of a difficulty than a blessing. The wiring and plumbing are inadequate, the floors leak every time it rains, and the walls have mold. The many steps have also been a real barrier for some guests who would like to share in our events.

After undertaking the Feasibility Study this summer, the Pastoral Council and the Finance Committee voted unanimously to go forward with the Capital Campaign to build the new Parish Center. Therefore, our hope is to raise at least \$2 million in the Campaign and to put our project out for bids late this winter. With God's blessing we will have a new Parish Center by Easter of 2011!!

This project is not an easy effort by any means. It will literally take ALL of us to work together to make it happen. But we can do that! We have a history of meeting big challenges, and we can do it again!

SO PLEASE JUMP ON BOARD WITH THIS CAMPAIGN! Make a sacrificial pledge that comes from the depth of your heart. Together, we will make our dream come true.

God bless you always.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Michael W. Grewe, *Pastor*

# St. Patrick's Church

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A C A M P A I G N F O R S T . P A T R I C K ' S C H U R C H

**OUR HISTORY**

St. Patrick's Church has a long history of turning obstacles into opportunities, by remaining grounded in faith and having an eye for the future. Long before the village of Gretna was established, a foundation of faith was laid by Irish Catholic immigrants who came to the pioneer village of Forest City in the 1850s. They celebrated Mass and the sacraments in a dugout home until they could build a permanent log church in 1863. The need for a new church became apparent as the village doubled in size, so a new church was built in 1874, despite the financial depression gripping the country and the loss of crops from grasshopper swarms. In 1887, when the village of Gretna was laid out and platted, the parish began to plan for its relocation to the new village. That same year, Fr. John Wallace, who was pastor of St. Patrick's for nearly 37 years, purchased the property the church stands on today. The hard times caused by the financial panic of 1893 did not deter the members of St. Patrick's from building a new church in Gretna, which was dedicated in 1895.



Growth and expansion continued throughout the last 100 years, with the building of St. Patrick's Hall in 1938 and the building of the new church in 2001. The parish has nearly tripled in size over the last decade, which compelled us to develop a strategic plan to address the increasing demands this growth imposes on our programs and facilities. As a parish, we have been blessed with visionary leaders who helped us to see opportunity instead of obstacles. We have adapted to ever changing needs. And we continue to set our sights on building for the future. Then as now, we know that **God invites us to renew our faith and strengthen the bonds that unite us as a community.**

**OUR NEEDS**

Following the tradition of focusing on and planning for the future, we as a parish developed a Master Plan in 2008 to guide us as we strive to meet the changing and growing needs of the parish. Key components of this plan include:

- A new facility to house the activities of our active parish. When St. Patrick's Hall was built in 1938, there were 80 families in the parish. At the time, it was the largest hall in the village of Gretna, able to accommodate 250 people. It was primarily financed by donations from just five members of the parish: Mrs. George Schram and her daughter Margaret Schram, J.H. Langdon, John McBride and the P.J. Melia family. While it served the parish well for 70 years, the facility has become operationally and functionally inadequate to support the activities of our parish that now has nearly 1200 families. The wiring is outdated, the building is not handicap accessible, and we have persistent water/mold issues in the kitchen. Its location and structural limitations makes it difficult to offer hospitality and fellowship to parishioners, let alone the wider community.
- Additional classroom space for the 600 children who attend religious education classes. With the lack of classroom space and the increasing number of students, our teachers and educational resources are stretched out. If the parish decides to pursue a preschool in the future, our religious education classrooms would be able to accommodate those needs.
- Additional administrative offices and work space for current and future staff. As the parish grows, the need for administrative and trained pastoral care staff grows as well. Consolidating the current staff, who have limited office space scattered throughout the facility, will provide parishioners greater access to the ministers entrusted with their care.
- A need for Liturgical Preparation Area and Storage. There is insufficient space in the church proper to accommodate all the preparation and storage needs of liturgical ministers. The Art and Environment Committee and Music Ministers need a central work area where they can prepare the materials needed for worship. The lower level of this addition will be used for building and maintenance storage, accessible from both the interior and exterior of the building.



**OUR PLAN**

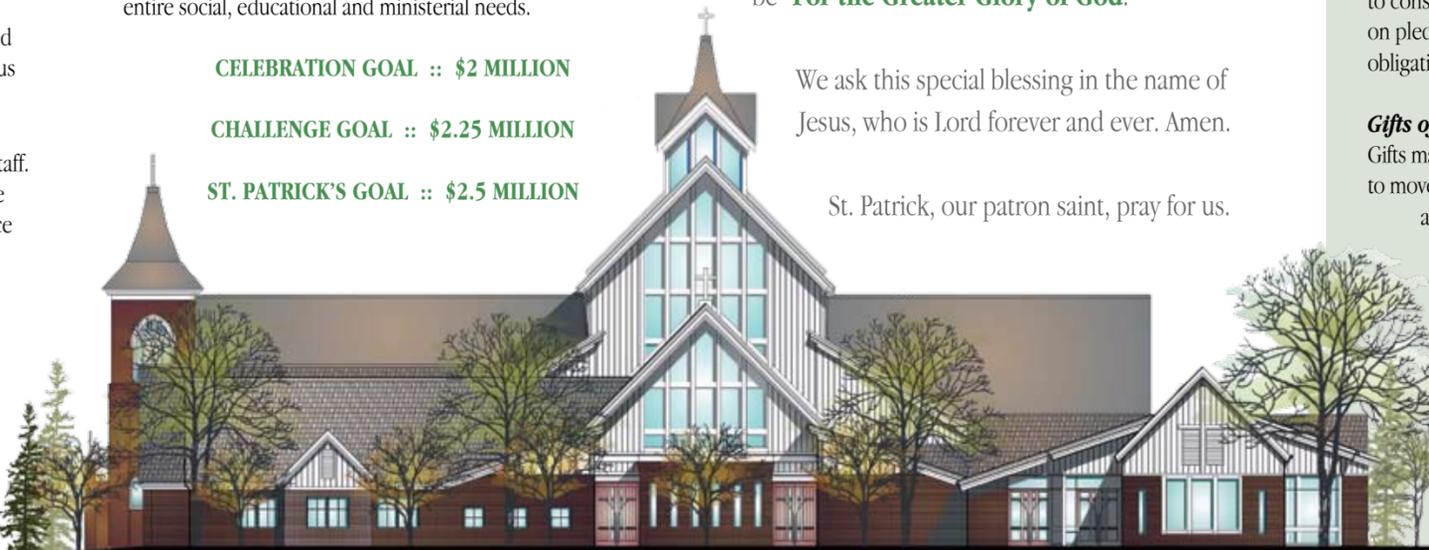
After listening carefully to parishioners and community members, revising our plan and praying for guidance, the Pastoral Council and Finance Council have crafted a project that will meet the challenges and needs of the parish:

- A multi-use Parish Center will be constructed to accommodate our parish's social activities, and educational and ministerial needs. The parish center will include a 480-person fellowship hall as well as flexible meeting rooms, classrooms, a kitchen, pantry, restrooms and storage. Most importantly, this space will allow us to grow our religious education program and faith enrichment activities for the 600 children in the parish. It will also allow us to continue to build our sense of community by providing a gathering space for hospitality and fellowship.

**BUILDING COMMUNITY...**

**The Building Faith...Building Community Capital Campaign is a \$2 million effort** to construct the two-level, multipurpose Parish Center that will provide space for our entire social, educational and ministerial needs.

- CELEBRATION GOAL :: \$2 MILLION**
- CHALLENGE GOAL :: \$2.25 MILLION**
- ST. PATRICK'S GOAL :: \$2.5 MILLION**



**CAMPAIGN PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, as we undertake our Capital Campaign we ask for your blessing. May our new Parish Center provide a holy place for **Building Faith** as our children and adults gather to learn about you. May our new social hall provide a place for **Building Community** as we join together to share friendship and to meet new parishioners. May we celebrate many joyous events there as well as comfort the families of our deceased.

Lord, you have blessed us with many new parishioners since our church was built. Give us the grace now so that we can grow our facility to meet our needs. Help us all to **share generously** in the effort of this campaign. And as our cornerstone states, may everything we do on these holy grounds be **"For the Greater Glory of God."**

We ask this special blessing in the name of Jesus, who is Lord forever and ever. Amen.  
St. Patrick, our patron saint, pray for us.



**METHODS OF GIVING**

Selecting the best gift plan depends on your personal financial situation and goals. As tax laws are always changing and each individual's situation is unique, you are encouraged to consult with financial advisors to determine which method of contributing is most beneficial to you.

**Pledges**

Pledges are commitments of payments to be made over time. We encourage you to consider a 10-20 percent down payment to begin your commitment. Payments on pledges are deductible for income tax purposes as provided by law. Pledges are obligations made in good faith, but are not legally binding.

**Gifts of Cash**

Gifts made by cash or check are the most common and will allow St. Patrick's Church to move forward more quickly with the construction project. Many people prefer to use automatic withdrawal when making pledge payments.

**Gifts of Securities**

Charitable gifts of stocks, bonds or mutual funds that have been held for at least one year and have appreciated offer special tax advantages. You will receive a tax deduction for the full market value of the gift, but you will not have to pay capital gains tax on the appreciated amount. If you sell depreciated stock and contribute the proceeds, you will receive both a tax deduction for the charitable gift and deduction for the capital loss.

**Life Insurance**

You may donate to the campaign by making St. Patrick's Church the owner and beneficiary of your insurance policy. If you are finished paying for the gifted policy, your gift is the replacement value or the cost basis of the policy, whichever is less. You may also donate a life insurance policy on which you are still making payments. The premiums on a donated policy are also deductible.

**Planned Gifts**

Planned giving is the process of carefully selecting the best method and asset for making a charitable gift. Such a gift can enable you to take full advantage of the tax laws to accomplish your financial and charitable goals. Planned gifts can be made through, among others:

- Bequests by will or living trust
- Charitable Gift Annuities
- Charitable Lead or Remainder Trusts
- Beneficiary benefits from IRA's, pensions or financial accounts

*Please contact your tax advisor for more information about these options.*