



SAINTS JOACHIM & ANNE

AND SHAKOPEE AREA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

June 24, 2022

Dear Parishioners,

We are excited to share that after a pause due to the COVID pandemic, we are resuming our work on the Parish Strategic Plan. As you may recall, during the summer of 2019 we hosted a series of open town hall meetings. The result of that process was the identification of 7 strategic pillars: Governance, Marketing, Unification, Facilities, School, Evangelization, and Finance. These lead us to the primary focus of **Unity, Ministries, and School**. As we reignite the strategic planning effort, we want to ensure the SJA community is informed of the process, our progress, and opportunities for parishioners to participate.

The August 2021 facilities update noted we had engaged Encompass, an engineering consulting firm, to provide an assessment of the exteriors and mechanicals of our facilities. This report, which was received and reviewed by the Parish Facilities Committee, identified approximately \$2.2 million in mechanical and HVAC repairs needed in the next 10 years. This is on top of additional expenses, which we have already identified, including brick tuckpointing, bell tower repairs, stained glass windows and roof maintenance. We have intentionally deferred these expenses until the strategic plan for our parish facilities is complete.

With this knowledge, our Parish staff, Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Council and Parish Facilities Committee are now able to begin transitioning from 'reactive' building maintenance to a 'proactive' and planful approach. Many parishioners have questioned if it is sustainable to maintain three churches, two social centers, three rectories, and a school given their current condition. While our Parish is financially healthy, the long-term answer is, no. To maintain all our current facilities would mean that we would need to commit to significant and costly repairs and resource redundancies. Collectively, this would represent millions of dollars of immediate, and ongoing costs.

The Encompass assessment brings clarity to the severity of our facilities' needs, and as a result, the need to begin conversations about the potential for a new, single church for our parish.

Coming this fall, our parish will host town hall meetings to review the facilities assessment, provide recommendations for a long-term facilities plan, and open discussion to include a conceptual rendering of a new, sustainable church facility.

While we all recognize that a building does not represent our love and relationship with Jesus, we also recognize that together within these walls we have celebrated the sacraments of baptism, first communion and marriage. And we have mourned together for those we have loved.

Stewardship is defined as "*careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care*". As such, it is our unique honor and responsibility to ensure we leave a sustainable church for future generations to ensure the SJA community continues to thrive.

We look forward to announcing the fall town hall meeting schedule. Please continue to pray for our parish, our committees and our SJA community as we look toward the future together.

May God Bless you all,

Parish Pastoral Council, Parish Finance Council, Facilities Committee