



St. Catherine of Siena Church
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“A CASE FOR SUPPORT”

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.” Ecclesiastes 3:1

BOTH CHURCH BUILDING AND PARISH CENTER ARE SHOWING THEIR AGE!

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Parish was founded in 1960 and the church was built in 1962. The construction of the Parish Center followed a short time later in 1964. Originally, the Parish Center provided space for religious education, parish meetings and administrative space and was the residence for our priests. As the parish grew in numbers, it became necessary to move the priests out of the Parish Center to give the parish more space for expanding ministries. In the ensuing years, both facilities (the church and Parish Center) have served the parish well with minimal upkeep expense and through one major church renovation in 1999. Both facilities are now nearing 50-years of age and -- like any buildings in upstate New York of that age -- are showing the signs of wear and deterioration. It is past time for the parish to address the problems brought-on by age and use. We must face the fact that both facilities have major needs for them to continue supporting the parish's ministries.

There are two serious problems with the church. First, the original roof, constructed of cedar shakes, is well beyond its useful service life. Problems are already arising from places where the roof is breaking down, and if nothing is done soon, will cause greater damage to the interior of the building. Second, the heating system is obsolete and well past its expected life. The system failing in the near future is likely, and an emergency replacement would severely impact the Parish's operation as well as increase the replacement costs. Also, in the interim, there is a concern about carbon monoxide entering the church.

While the amount of space inside the church is for the most part adequate, wonderful improvements in its usage would be the relocation of the daily Mass chapel to the church, the expansion of the “crying room,” relocation of the baptismal font to a more visible location, and the addition of a narthex (gathering space) to allow for greater fellowship among parishioners before and after each Mass.

The report on the state of our Parish Center is graver. The roof is failing, most of the systems that support the facility (heating, air-conditioning, utilities) are also in need of either replacement or major repairs, and the facility itself is simply not adequate for a parish our size and for the scope of the ministries we want to carry-out. Were major renovations to be undertaken a number of serious building code deficiencies would have to be addressed. Our architects and engineers, who have been working with us to assess our situation, have shown that were we to undertake a full renovation to the Parish Center, we would most likely end-up spending almost as much money on the renovations as a new facility would cost.

A vibrant Catholic community where all are welcomed, challenged and supported in their life journey.

ACTION IS NEEDED NOW!

For almost two years the leadership of our parish has been working on one of our six strategic goals -- improving our facilities -- by studying and praying about how to best address the needs of our facilities. While there are many options and combinations of options, the parish has clearly reached a point at which something must be done and done soon. To not act would be irresponsible, only putting-off the inevitable and likely saddling the parish with greater expense and inconvenience in the future. Therefore the leadership of our parish has undertaken this feasibility study to determine the parish's capacity to raise the funds needed to enhance and improve our parish's ministry facilities. We know some will respond immediately with, "*Couldn't we have picked a better time to do this in light of the current economic situation in our country?*" The answer is an obvious "yes" -- we wish there were a better time but we simply have to face the fact that we didn't choose this time to do something ... this time chose us!

"FIX-UP" APPROACH FOR PARISH CENTER IS ILL ADVISED

After much discussion, our Parish leadership believes that settling for repairs to the Parish Center is ill advised for these reasons:

- Simply replacing the Center's roof and HVAC systems would cost about \$720,000
- There would be extra expenses to bring the building up to code
- Repairs usually uncover hidden problems and unanticipated expenses
- Housing the parish staff elsewhere during repairs would be costly and disruptive to parish life

Thus, we do not recommend repairs to the Parish Center, but all other options remain under active consideration.

For the purposes of this Feasibility Study, we are proposing one specific plan (rather than all the options) as a test case to see what can be supported and funded by the parish. This plan does not represent a decision already made. It is rather a clear option meant to elicit information about our fundraising capacity. This option was chosen based on parishioner comments and responses at our forums.

This plan proposes to build a new Parish Center to serve the religious education, small group meeting, fellowship and administrative functions of the parish for another 50+ years.

Also, we could add a narthex (gathering space) that would facilitate building community -- one of St. Catherine's strategic goals and one of the top priorities for new added space mentioned in our forums. Moreover, a narthex would be an improvement that all would experience who attend Mass each weekend.

A new Parish Center would put St Catherine's on a path to the future without the burden of an obsolete and deteriorated building consuming valuable resources and preventing effective and efficient ministries and programs.

ALTHOUGH ALL OPTIONS REMAIN UNDER CONSIDERATION, WE ARE TESTING – THROUGH THIS FEASIBILITY STUDY – IF THE FACILITIES ACTIONS BELOW ARE SUPPORTED AND CAN BE FUNDED BY THE PARISH

• Replace the church’s obsolete roof and HVAC system	\$800,000
• Build a new, same-size, but reconfigured Parish Center (with emphasis on fellowship and youth faith formation)	\$3,100,000
• Connect the new Parish Center to the church with an entrance narthex	\$400,000
• Enhance church space (with a daily Mass chapel, enlarged crying room, centrally located baptismal font and AV capability for the sanctuary)	\$270,000
Total Estimated Cost	<u>\$4,570,000</u>

CAN YOU IMAGINE...

- a new roof and HVAC system for our beautiful church to serve another generation of parishioners
- a new Parish Center – similar in size - but configured to more effectively and efficiently support four more of our strategic goals:
 - grow and strengthen our community
 - enhance our service to the needy
 - improve the faith formation of all ages
 - improve the participation of youth
- an entrance narthex to the church that connects with the Parish Center
- enhanced church space supporting our remaining strategic goal
 - enhance the quality of our liturgies

Such capital improvements would enable St Catherine’s to be the “vibrant Catholic Community” envisioned by its parishioners -- one “where all are welcomed, challenged and supported on their life journeys.” What a fitting way to celebrate and honor the 50th anniversary of St. Catherine’s founding in 2010 and of the opening of the church in 2012!

Perhaps the writer of the Book of Ecclesiastes said it best with “*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven:*” We believe it is the time and the season for seriously addressing our Parish facility needs.