

Nativity News

The Newsletter of the Cathedral Parish of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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November/December 2007

What Makes the Church?



People do! That is, you and I make up the Church of God here on Earth. With my head swimming in: building designs, numbers of seats and square feet, wall elevations, floor plans, building sections, building materials, contractors and cost estimates, I am reminded again and again that it will be people who will build our new Cathedral.

Many years ago, in the mid nineties, the Cathedral Facilities Committee completed a detailed analysis of our current building. While the current Cathedral is beautiful inside and out there are several major deficiencies that need to be addressed soon. So over a year ago the building committee, headed by Anna-Mariah Kelly, was formed with twelve members representing a large cross-section of the parish including myself. We were charged by the Bishop to investigate the possibility for renovation of the existing building or for construction of a new building on our downtown site. No member of the building committee wants to lose the current building. For several months we wrestled with different ways to adequately restore and possibly expand the current building.

There are many reasons to consider renovation and/or a new building. Structurally, all of the roof trusses are broken. In the fifties when the supporting buttresses on the outside of the building were removed, the tops of the walls moved out and the center of the roof fell in. (This damage can be easily viewed from the choir loft.) The steel rods installed in 1985 have stabilized four of the trusses; yet the one in the choir loft still appears to be moving. I have opened up the walls in several different locations, and unfortunately found extensive carpenter ant damage in the whole wall facing 5th St and the first third of the Gold St. wall. The concrete foundation is crumbling and generally going to pieces on the 5th St and Gold St sides. (A short investigation of the basement or garden will show a substantial portion of the foundation has just sloughed away.) I noticed this spring that the Gold St foundation wall has moved down hill several inches pulling the bottom of the basement window with it.

So the roof, walls, and foundation are in need of serious repair or replacement. Who knows how well the building would fare in an earthquake or how many more years it will be safe to use. There are several other safety and ADA accessibility issues that also need to be addressed. After seeing how fast the Holy Trinity church building burned, I am reminded that the cathedral building does not have a fire alarm system, water sprinkler system nor sufficient emergency exits. The center aisle is four feet wide and the side aisle only two feet wide which makes for a tight fit for most of us and a real impossibility for those with a walker or wheel chair, if they even could enter the main church. Liturgically there are several deficiencies due to the small sized narthex, aisles, choir area, and sanctuary. With all this under careful consideration the Building Committee has recommended to the Parish Council and to our Bishop that new construction will best meet the needs of the Cathedral Parish and the Diocese for the next one-hundred years while being the best use of our time, talent, and treasure.

Again what makes a church? People do. One-hundred-twenty-five years ago the first Mass was celebrated with the Catholic Community of Juneau. Nearly one-hundred years ago people like us built our current Catholic church as the third church building on this block. What will we build to house the worship of the people of God for the next one-hundred years? How about a new church building in the style of a basilica?

After listening to the parishioners and examining several different types of church buildings the Building Committee found that many of our needs and wants could be met by building a simple basilica. Generally many of the churches built by the Romans in the third and four centuries were basilicas (see drawings). They are one unit high and one unit wide and two or three units long with one or two side aisles supported by a colonnade. They have an entrance through a narthex and at the opposite end have an apse with an altar. Generally our current cathedral building could be considered a basilica without the shed roof, side aisles, and columns.

So enclosed you will see the draft concept drawings for a basilica style cathedral at the corner of 5th and Gold streets (see drawings). These draft concept drawings are merely a

place to start the conversation about what the new cathedral might look like. In order to build this building both the current cathedral church building and the office/rectory building will need to be dismantled, and as many components as practical, reused. The orientation of the building will also shift 90 degrees with the entrance parallel to Gold St. and the apse near the Hall. The building will have a full basement so that the uphill side of the church will not be underground, and this basement will have a place for offices, bathrooms, coat rack, Mary Joyce Room and additional classroom and meeting space. The bell tower will also house an elevator.

The church building is divided into thirds along its length. The first third is the narthex, which functions as a transition space from the street to the church and allows for friendly greeting and visiting. In the center of the space is a full immersion baptismal font reminding all of us that we became Christian and so entered the church through our own baptism. A confessional will be located near the baptismal font. Above the narthex is additional seating for 92 people in the stair step choir loft. The middle third of the building is where 160 people of the assembly will sit in pews in the nave while in the side aisles a total of 88 chairs could be added at Christmas and Easter. The current cathedral tightly seats 175 (fire code allows 143), and the new church could seat as many as 340 (fire code allows 396). In the back of each side aisle there could be a shrine, prayer space and place to light candles. The last third of the building is devoted to the sanctuary which could be up three steps with an apse focusing our attention on the altar. Inside the apse there could be a fresco of Christ surrounded by all the saints of our diocese and many others. The tabernacle could also be placed in the apse in an old style high altar. There will be room for both the presiders' chair and on the opposite side the Bishop's chair or *cathedra*, (where we get the word cathedral). Near the sanctuary there will be room for a small choir while a large one could use the choir loft. There are two small storage spaces next to the apse; one for musicians/sound equipment and the other as a small sacristy (a larger vesting sacristy will be in the basement).

These draft concept drawings show a combination of building materials. Working from the ground up, natural stone (quarried at the Shrine) could be used to cover the narthex end, the apse and around the building as a wainscot, with pre-cast concrete around the doors and windows (like the Shrine). Twelve pre-cast concrete

buttresses are also shown. Next is either concrete board or cedar lapped siding, topped with a metal roof. The arch-topped operable stained glass windows will grace the side aisles while the rectangular ones will move up into the clear story above the nave. We will also be able to restore the three old windows and place those in the wall as well as create a few more for both the side aisle and the clear story. The lanterns could remain clear glass and act as light wells.

The interior of the church would have a hard surface floor, possibly stained concrete. The columns could be spaced ten feet apart with six on each side for a total of twelve. A roman arch would connect the columns. Both the column tops and the arches could include gold work similar to our current building. There could be a wood wainscot throughout the building. The entire present cathedral building fits neatly inside the 60 x 30 foot rectangle drawn from the font to the altar. So the seating distances and sight lines will be very similar to what we have now.



These draft concept drawings with a material specification have been sent off to a building cost estimating firm in Anchorage so we will have a rough idea of how much the new Cathedral will cost. The next task for the building committee is to interview and hire an architectural and engineering firm to help design the new Cathedral. We hope to have the Request for Proposal (RFP) done by mid

November and interview in January in order to hire a firm and negotiate a contract by the end of February. These draft concept drawings will be included in the RFP so the architects know generally what we are looking for. A lot of hours and much of your input have gone into these draft concept drawings. Now the Building Committee again needs your help and your input. Please look these drawings over, ask questions and ponder the possibilities. What do you want/don't want in a new Cathedral? Please write down your comments, write on the drawings if you like, and get those ideas back to the Building Committee via the parish office.

Thank you for staying involved in the process, and thank Building Committee members when you see them; they have done some great work.

Shalom,
Fr. Thomas Weise, Rector

ELECTRONIC GIVING COMES TO THE CATHEDRAL!

Enclosed you will find an electronic giving form. This is something new here at the Cathedral. You can give to support the mission of the church and to special collections using your credit card, or an electronic transfer from your checking or savings account. If you currently pay any of your bills on-line or by electronic transfer this process and convenience will make a lot of sense to you. If you would like to use this service and need some help the parish staff are ready to assist you. In the next few weeks you will also be able to donate or pay your religious education tuition through a secure link on the parish website. Last week the cathedral opened a new money market account at the bank entitled *New Cathedral Building Fund*. We already have around \$25,000 promised to the account. Please consider making regular donations to this capital fund for the building of a new cathedral building. The staff is pleased to offer this option for you to show your support for the mission of the church. Thank you again for your generosity.

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL EVENTS

Our Lady of the Rosary Prayer Meetings are held on Friday evenings at St. Paul's Parish Church at 7:30pm.

Twin Hearts Prayer Meetings are held on Sundays at 1:30pm at the Cathedral.

Good Shepherd Prayer Meetings are held on Sundays at 2:15pm at St. Paul's Church.

Holy Trinity Catholic Prayer Meetings are held on Sundays at 1:30pm in the Cathedral Parish Hall meeting room.

CATHEDRAL HOMILIES ON THE WEB!

If you would like to hear the homilies preached at the Cathedral again, or share them with a friend, go to the Cathedral website at www.juneaucathedral.org and click on *Weekly Homily Podcasts*.

FROM SR. MARIE LUCEK, OP

CATHEDRAL PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

586-1340 / srmariel@acsalaska.net



New Members—Part III

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is specifically designed for persons who are not baptized. When an unbaptized person expresses a desire to become a member of the Catholic Church an intense, searching and formative journey begins.

There are four stages which are part of this journey. The first is called the Pre-catechumenate and is meant primarily as a time to question and observe. It can be any length of time from several months to many years, depending on the readiness of the person. This stage ends with the Rite of Acceptance.

The second stage is the Catechumenate, the stage probably most familiar to all of us, because this is the time when catechumens are dismissed from the Sunday Mass, so we are reminded each Sunday of their presence among us. During this stage catechumens learn about the Catholic faith and share their experiences of how God is working in their lives. It is also a time for questioning and for discernment. The Rite of Election completes this stage.

Stage three, the Period of Purification and Enlightenment, occurs during Lent. This is not a time for instruction, but a time for deepening prayer and reflection in preparation for the big moment which will take place at the Easter Vigil. At the Vigil catechumens receive the three sacraments of initiation—Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

As a “follow-up” to their Easter Vigil experience, stage four, called mystagogia, helps the new Christians reflect on and share this experience, and also realize that being a Catholic Christian is a lifelong journey which never really ends.

An important part of each of these stages is the support and involvement of the whole parish community. Each of us as members of the assembly is part of the prayerful support and formation of all those who wish to join our Church. A team of catechists does not do this alone, but it needs every person's participation. Then at the Easter Vigil the new Christians will truly know that they have joined a whole community of welcoming, supportive parishioners.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

KATY RICE, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

Baptism: Baptism classes for parents of infants and young children will be offered in January. Preparation classes are offered three times a year, in September, January & April. We recommend you take the class before your child is born, if possible.

The January class will meet on:

Monday, January 7th: 6pm to 7:30pm

Monday, January 14th: 6pm to 7:30pm

Please contact Katy to register for the classes: 586-1317 or cathedralre@acsalaska.net

First Reconciliation & First Communion: First Reconciliation classes are currently in session. The final two classes will be on Sundays, November 4th & 11th. The Reconciliation retreat and celebration will take place on Saturday, November 10th from 9am to 12pm. We will meet in the Parish Hall. First Communion classes will begin in the Spring. Look for more information in the January/February edition of Nativity News.

GODLY PLAY

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER SCHEDULE

Pre-school & Kindergarten Schedule

November 4th: The Parable of the Good Samaritan

November 11th: The Parable of the Leaven

November 18th: Work Session (after a brief gathering, the children are given a longer time to work on arts & crafts projects)

November 25th: The Circle of the Church Year

December 2nd: Advent I

December 9th: Advent II

December 16th: Advent III

December 23rd: Advent IV

December 30th: Christmas Break: No Godly Play

Middle Grades Schedule

November 4th: The Ark and the Temple

November 11th: The Exile and the Return

November 18th: Safe Environment: Bullying

November 25th: Safe Environment: Yello Dyno

December 2nd: St. Ann

December 9th: Mary the Mother of God & the Hail Mary

December 16th: Advent I & II

December 23rd: Advent III & IV

December 30th: Christmas Break: No Godly Play

Upper Grades Schedule

November 4th: The Exile and the Return

November 11th: The Prophets

November 18th: The Story of the Prophet Elijah

November 25th: St. Ann

December 2nd: Mary the Mother of God & the Hail Mary

December 9th: The Rosary

December 16th: Advent I, II, III & IV

December 23rd: The Mystery of Christmas

December 30th: Christmas Break: No Godly Play

CATHEDRAL YOUTH MINISTRY NOVEMBER/DECEMBER SCHEDULE

November 7th: Operation Christmas Child: Come help wrap and fill shoe boxes for children in need. We will meet in the Parish Hall.

November 14th: Middle School & High School meet separately in Parish Hall classrooms. Topic: The Life of Jesus

November 21st: Wednesday before Thanksgiving, no youth group.

November 28th: Taize prayer service in the Church. Families and friends are welcome to join us for a beautiful night of song and prayer.

December 5th: Middle School & High School meet separately in Parish Hall classrooms. Topic: The Life of Jesus

December 12th: Middle School & High School meet separately in Parish Hall classrooms. Topic: The Life of Jesus

December 19th: Rock Dump! Let's go climb the walls. Look for more information in your mailbox and the bulletin!

December 26th: No Youth Group. Happy Christmas Break!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It's Time to pack shoeboxes!!! For several years the Cathedral has participated in Operation Christmas Child, a non-denominational program which delivers millions of gift-filled shoe boxes around the world to children who are suffering because of war, natural disaster, poverty, illness, or neglect. Last year Cathedral parishioners donated over 40 shoe boxes which were sent to the Russian Far-East and the Philippines.



Creating Safe Environments for Our Children

In 2002, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued its *Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People*. This document was written in response to the sex abuse crisis taking place in the Church. In the preamble the bishops stated, "As bishops, we acknowledge our mistakes . . . and we apologize and take responsibility for too often failing victims and our people in the past. We also take responsibility for dealing with this problem strongly, consistently, and effectively in the future." The charter goes on to list several policies to be implemented in the dioceses of the United States. These policies include: to promote healing and reconciliation with victims/survivors of sexual abuse of minors, to guarantee an effective response to allegations of sexual abuse of minors, to ensure the accountability of our procedures, and to protect the faithful in the future.

One of the Charter's policies requires that all dioceses establish "safe environment" programs. These programs provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, and educators about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children. As part of this program all catechists attend ongoing training on the pastoral code of conduct, the diocesan policy on sex abuse, recognizing signs of abuse in a child, the Alaska statutes on sexual abuse, and their role as mandated reporters.

Throughout the year we will offer safe environment sessions for children and parents. Each of the Safe Environment sessions will take place during Godly Play or Youth Group class times.

In November, 1st through 3rd graders will have two safe environment sessions: Sunday, November 18th. This session will focus on how to stand up to bullies and what to do if you feel unsafe at school.

Sunday, November 25th: This session will use Yello Dyno's *Can't Fool Me* DVD. The DVD promotes healthy self-esteem and teaches kids what to do if they encounter unsafe situations. To learn more about this curriculum please visit the Yello Dyno website: www.yellodyno.com. Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend these sessions with their child. For more information contact Katy, 586-1317 or cathedraldre@acsalaska.net.

Ways you can get involved this year:

Pack a shoe box: Pick up a shoe box and flier in the entryway to the Parish Hall. The flier explains how to pack a box and what items to put in it. Buy the items, pack them, include a \$7 check to help with shipping costs. Bring your packed box to the Parish office anytime during the week (8am to 4pm) or bring it to a weekend liturgy on November 10th or 11th. All the boxes received will be blessed at these Masses before being shipped off.

Donate items: We will be accepting items to put in the boxes as well. Ideas for items would be mild bar soap, hard candy, new toys and stuffed animals, new school supplies and art supplies. Bring items to donate to the Parish office during the week (8am to 4pm) or to the Religious Education office on Sunday morning (9am to 1pm). We will be accepting items through Sunday, November 11th.

Donate money: If you would like to donate to Operation Christmas Child but do not have the time to go shopping, you can donate money to the project. Make your check out to the Cathedral and write Operation Christmas Child in the memo space. All money will be used to buy needed items for the boxes and/or to pay for shipping.



ADVENTures!!!! ADVENTure Sunday is

December 2nd from 2:30pm to 5pm in the Parish Hall. Bring your family and join us for an afternoon of Advent crafts and fellowship! We are looking for



volunteers to help with set-up, clean-up and craft tables. We also need donations of (unfrosted) sugar cookies. Please contact Katy, 586-1317 or

cathedraldre@acsalaska.net, if you can help!

Godly Play Christmas Pageant at the Family Mass 5:30pm Christmas Eve

This year the Godly Play program will contribute to the Christmas liturgy with a pageant. All children in Godly Play are invited to take part in the pageant. Please let Katy know as soon as possible if your family will not be attending the 5:30pm Family Mass on Christmas Eve. Children who are not attending the Mass will still play an active role in the rehearsals which take place during regular Godly Play class on December 16th and 23rd.

CATHEDRAL YOUNG ADULT GROUP

What is a young adult group? Catholic parishes across the country have young adult groups for parishioners ages 18 to 40. These groups do service projects, prayer experiences, hiking, "theology on tap," dinner parties, small faith communities, Bible study . . . The possibilities are endless.

YOUNG ADULT GROUP SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

Thursday, November 8th: Theology on Tap (Global Warming & Catholic Social Teaching), 7pm-8:30pm, location to be announced

Thursday, November 15th: Dinner at the Glory Hole, meet at the Glory Hole at 5pm

Tuesday, December 4th: Game Night, Parish Hall, classrooms, 7pm-8:30pm

If you have questions or would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Katy 586-1317 or cathedraldre@acsalaska.net

ADVENT HYMN FESTIVAL

&

EVENING PRAYER

If you're one of those people who reach Christmas Day exhausted and wishing you could have a more meaningful and spiritual Advent, then a few upcoming events may be the change you're looking for.

The first event is an Advent Hymn Festival. Every Monday evening of Advent (**December 3, 10, & 17**) at 7:00pm, we will gather in the Cathedral worship space for a hymn festival based on the "O Antiphons" which flow from the familiar hymn "O Come O Come Emmanuel." Woven through the seven stanzas of this Advent hymn, there will be readings from Isaiah and other hymns (such as "Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming.") The music and readings offer a gentle contemplative way to reflect on Christ's incarnation. The gathering will last about an hour and the same format will be followed each Monday night.



ALL SAINTS DAY, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

Masses at the Cathedral: 7:00am, 12:10pm & 7:00pm

CHRISTMAS SING-ALONG

In joyous anticipation of Christ's holy birth, we will be gathering for our annual Family Christmas Sing Along, Friday, December 21st, 7pm in the Cathedral parish hall. Everyone is asked to bring a plate of cookies to share and a non-perishable food donation for Helping Hands. Drinks will be provided as well as song books. If you'd like to dust off your guitar or other musical instrument to play along, call Martha and Jim @586-5635 to attend a practice or get a chord book.



"I don't know where Cain and Abel went for Thanksgiving, Son. I just know they didn't go to Grandma's."

St. Vincent de Paul
8617 Teal Street, Juneau, AK 99801
907-789-5535

The Board of St. Vincent de Paul wants to provide current information to the Catholic parishes of Juneau as to the services they provide for families and individuals who are in need.

What does the Juneau Conference of St. Vincent de Paul do for the disenfranchised in Juneau?

One of the great needs the Board of St. Vincent de Paul has recognized in Juneau has been affordable housing for low-income households and the homeless. The following are some of the projects that have addressed that need.

***SMITH HALL** provides for 25 senior low-income households.
***CHANNEL VIEW APARTMENTS** have 22 apartments restricted to low-income households.

***PAUL'S PLACE** are the 18 apartments developed in the wing where the Thrift Store formerly resided.

***THE FAMILY CENTER** provides 15 transitional housing apartments for homeless families with children.

The above facilities were developed, sponsored and built by St. Vincent de Paul. Today they also manage these facilities. **The Thrift Store** offers affordable clothing and household items. Profits from the store support St. Vincent de Paul's outreach and operational expenses.

Direct Financial Aid to the Needy involves services such as rent assistance, help with utilities, food and clothing vouchers.

St. Vincent de Paul Childcare Center offers full-time licensed day care services for 16 low-income or homeless children.

How can you support the work of St. Vincent de Paul?

Prayers are always important. It is often difficult for the staff and volunteers to support people in transition.

Volunteers are always welcome. Winter is coming. Someone offering to plow snow, if only once, would be greatly appreciated.

A major goal of the Board is to build a new Thrift Store. We want to create a safer place for the children in residence and a less crowded store for shoppers. A savings account has been established for this purpose.

Monetary donations are greatly appreciated. They may be sent to St. Vincent de Paul, 8617 Teal Street, Juneau, AK 99801. Credit card donations can be made through the Thrift Store at: 789-5141 or in person at the store Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. until 5 p.m.

The staff and Board of St. Vincent de Paul want to thank everyone for their past and present support. God's blessings!

Holiday Candle

On Thanksgiving, we share a special meal with family and friends. Make this holiday candle as a festive centerpiece for your table.

What you need:

- Paper towel
- One 8-oz. clear plastic cup
- Petroleum jelly (Vaseline)
- Paper or plastic disposable bowl
- About 8 oz. of a variety of dried beans, peas, corn, etc.
- Bottle of white glue
- Plastic spoon
- An 8- to 10-inch taper or dinner candle
- Adult to help



What you do:

1. Using the paper towel, rub a generous amount of petroleum jelly on the inside of the cup (bottom and sides).
2. In a bowl, pour the dried-bean mixture.
3. Squeeze enough glue into the bean mixture to generously coat it. Stir the mixture with the spoon.
4. Spoon about half of the bean mixture into the greased cup. Then place the candle, with any plastic wrapping removed, into the center of the mixture. Next, fill the cup with the rest of the mixture. Smooth the top to make it flat, making sure the candle stays straight.
5. Squeeze extra glue around the hole made by the candle. Let the bean mixture dry completely, which could take a day or longer.
6. When the bean mixture is dry, gently pull the candle. Both the candle and beans should come out as one. (If they don't, pour more glue and wait another day.)
7. Place your candle on a small plate for a festive Thanksgiving centerpiece.

CATHEDRAL PARISH DIRECTORY

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Cathedral of the Nativity Web page

www.juneaucathedral.org



Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm

Sunday 8:30 & 11:00 am & 5:30 pm

Monday-Friday 12:10 pm

Friday 9:30am **Wildflower Court**

Saturday 9:30 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday 4:00 - 5:00 pm

and by appointment.

Celebrating 125 years of the
Catholic Community of Juneau

Cathedral of the Nativity
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
416 Fifth Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

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