



HOUSE OF GOD, GATE OF HEAVEN

Capital Campaign for St. Mary Magdalen Parish & School

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Dear Saint Mary Magdalen Parishioners, School Families and Friends,

Our House of God, Gate of Heaven Capital Campaign has been a tremendous success and I am happy to announce that we have everything in place to begin the construction phase of these projects in June of this year.

I give thanks for the guidance and grace of God, and our Blessed Mother to whom we dedicated this campaign. Over 150 parishioners and our school children committed to our Memorare Army of Prayer. I thank them, and all who have prayed so earnestly.

I thank our donors for their faith filled and generous gifts. Many of you made a second commitment to the campaign, others have completed their pledge payments but continue to send checks, and so many of you have worked tirelessly at various fundraisers that have not only raised funds but brought a new life and sense of community to our parish.

As our campaign was brought to a close, we found ourselves with a \$1.6 million difference between the cost of the buildings and the pledges and donations we had received. Our building committee worked earnestly to reduce costs and discern what features could be delayed. This process brought our costs down by \$600,000. While we were hoping to avoid further debt, it became clear with rapidly escalating construction costs (6 to 10 percent per year), that we would be chasing an ever-rising target of funds needed.

The good news is that after a review of our current and future financial records, the Archdiocesan Office of Planning and Construction and Department of Finances have given us their support for the project and pre-approved us for a loan. They are aware of our history and very much want this project to move forward and soon.

Within the coming weeks, gym and church plans and other specifics will be available on the parish website. A brochure on various ways to give and a menu of items with corresponding costs should you wish to sponsor a specific item will also be published.

We will break ground on our Gymnasium/Future Performing Arts Center this June with an anticipated completion this fall. We will then break ground on the church in spring of 2019 anticipating our first Mass in the new church Christmas of 2019. We will have much to celebrate! This community has wanted a proper church and gymnasium since its inception.

As a pastor, I feel blessed to be a part of this moment in time for your parish. May God continue to guide and care for us as we journey toward Him, our home, the House of God, Gate of Heaven.

Yours in Christ,

Father Hans M. Olson
Pastor, St. Mary Magdalen Parish/St. John Mission