

## **Dear Parishioner,**

We hope this letter finds you well. We wanted to follow up on our recent Parish Center & New Addition Information Sessions, held over two weekends in March. Over 70 parishioners signed in at those meetings, and we'd like to ensure that all parishioners, including those who could not attend, are informed about the exciting plans for St. John the Baptist.

This addition proposal has been discussed for more than 30 years. After much prayer, planning, and discussion, we are now able to move forward. We believe this project will help us meet the current and future needs of our Parish, but before we take the next step, we want to hear from every parishioner. Your voice matters, and this is a moment where the participation of our whole parish family is essential. Together, we can shape the future of St. John's for the next generation.

### **Why Are We Moving Forward?**

This proposal directly supports our Parish's five-year plan, which prioritizes:

- ✓ Enlivening the faith of our youth – A dedicated, inviting youth space.
- ✓ Bringing back fallen-away Catholics – A welcoming gathering area for connection.
- ✓ Strengthening our Parish community – Rooms dedicated for ministries and outreach.

Furthermore, this addition will:

- ✓ Provide an indoor area outside the church sanctuary for socializing.
- ✓ Provide enough seating/worship space for planned growth and summer visitors.
- ✓ Enhance Parish life with a welcoming area, and new classrooms and office space.
- ✓ Reduce long-term costs by replacing our aging Parish Center and avoiding up to \$250,000 in necessary repairs while also reducing annual operating costs by \$10,000 a year.
- ✓ Improve liturgical flow with direct access to the nave for funeral processions.
- ✓ Respect our 130-year history, ensuring St. John's remains a beacon of faith.
- ✓ Provide for future generations—a space to worship, learn, and grow.
- ✓ Honor those who built this parish by investing in its future.

We have carefully considered the costs. The total projected build cost for the parish addition is between \$1.4 and \$1.5 million which after the sale of the Parish Center and previous donations our fundraising goal is \$400,000 to \$600,000 which we believe, while a stretch, is achievable through pledged donations, naming opportunities, and grants. It's also important to note that even if we choose to do nothing, we would still need to raise \$250,000 to address essential repairs to the existing Parish Center.

We see this as not only a building project, but a renewal of our mission to be a vibrant, welcoming community centered on Christ.

### **We Want to Hear from You!**

Please take a moment to review this information and share your written feedback, whether supportive or constructive, using the attached comment form. You may place the form in the collection basket at Mass or deliver it to the parish office. Your input would be most valuable if received by **April 22**, but we welcome your thoughts at any time.

If you would like more information or have questions, Scott May (281-881-2875) or Ed Fischer (605-673-2958) would be happy to speak with you.

Thank you for your time, your support, and your prayerful consideration.

**In Christ,**

**Fr. Collins Igwilo**  
Pastor,

**Dcn. Pat Coy**  
Deacon

**Ed Fischer**  
Committee Member

**Scott May**  
Committee Member



**Draft Proposal**

