

# **SAINT DANIEL CHURCH, WHEATON, ILLINOIS**

## **Our Parish Strategic Plan: Updated on October 3, 2018**



### **Introduction**

- Thankful for the past, and hopeful for the future, we make the most of present opportunities!
  - After retiring the loan for our parish center, we addressed pressing maintenance issues.
  - The parish center roof needed to be replaced, and the parking lot needed to be resurfaced.
  - Many thanks to the diocese for loaning us the funds to complete all this necessary work.
  
- As we continue to pay back this loan, we give thanks for our other accomplishments thus far:
  - New timer system for the parking lot lights and the building security lighting (2014)
  - Extensive landscaping work and rebuilding of the storm sewer system (2014-2016)
  - Extensive repairs to the HVAC system in the parish center complex (2015-2017)
  - New phone system and new computer server for all the parish offices (2015)
  - New furnaces installed for the church and for the narthex area (2016-2017)
  - New sound system installed for the church, the chapel, and the narthex (2016)
  - Full compliance achieved with the City of Wheaton safety requirements (2016)
  - New commercial hot water heaters installed for the parish center complex (2017)
  - New siding on the dormers for the church steeple and the parish center roof (2017)
  - Kneelers installed in our pews in accord with current diocesan liturgical policies (2018)
  
- The future projects, described on the following pages, depend on several important factors:
  - The primary needs of our spiritual, educational, and charitable parish programs.
  - The progress of paying off the diocesan loan for our new roof and parking lot.
  - The success of capital fundraising programs and planned giving opportunities.
  - The expert advice of the original architects of our wonderful church facilities.

## Sanctuary Area Improvements

### Baptismal Font:

- Our baptismal font leaks, even after caulking it several times. The problem is all in the plumbing.
- The leaking pipes are right underneath the font, buried deep within the foundation of the building.
- Access to these leaking pipes involves the dismantling and rebuilding of the entire baptismal font.
- In the meantime, the baptismal font area has been adapted for aesthetic and practical reasons.
- Thank goodness that Baptism is all about the holy water, and not about the baptismal font itself!

### Pipe Organ:

- After twenty-five years, the organ technicians are recommending several repairs and updates.
- The electronics of the keyboard system are out of date and are failing. They must be replaced.
- The pipes need to be re-voiced according to American, rather than European, music standards.
- All the pipes need to be retro-refitted with special metal sleeves to keep them in tune longer.
- Certain pipes need to be relocated for accessibility to the tuners and for the repair technicians.
- Advanced MIDI capabilities are also required for the full potential of the church music program.

### Sanctuary:

- In 2010, the original carpet for the sanctuary and altar steps was replaced with a wooden floor.
- Unfortunately, there were problems with the railings and with the actual flooring installation itself.
- In 2017, the side railings were removed at the recommendation of the original church architect.
- When new church carpeting is installed, a new sanctuary floor should also be part of that project.
- Greater handicap accessibility to the upper sanctuary area should also be considered at that time.
- In January 2018, the sanctuary cross was centered to bring greater focus to the altar of sacrifice.



## **Nave and Narthex Improvements**

### **Pews:**

- In compliance with liturgical directives from the diocese, kneelers were installed in January 2018.
- The pews still need to be refinished and then reupholstered, with a well-coordinated color scheme.
- The pews, which are only screwed to the floor, also need to be securely bolted down to the floor.

### **Flooring:**

- The color of the carpet must be coordinated with the overall color-scheme of our worship space.
- The carpet, the sanctuary floor, and the pew seats, need to be color-coordinated with each other.
- The narthex needs new carpeting as well, also coordinated with all the other colors in the church.

## **Other Parish Facility Improvements**

### **Parish Center Kitchen:**

- Regular hospitality for our weekend Masses is now the primary focus of our parish kitchen.
- The original appliances in the parish center kitchen need ongoing repair and maintenance.
- We would also like to have our kitchen facilities certified by the county health department.

### **Windows and Doors:**

- E-Rated glass is needed for the high upper-church windows, to minimize problems with glare.
- Several church windows have broken seals and need to be replaced through the whole building.
- The church doors need to be fixed or replaced for better functionality and for greater security.

### **Church Ceiling:**

- The ceiling needs to be inspected for possible staining and for other weathering issues.
- Possible damage from various roof leaks needs to be examined, assessed, and corrected.
- The new roof and new dormers should have precluded any further damage to our buildings.

### **Church Lighting:**

- LED lights eventually need to be installed for energy saving reasons in our church and chapel.
- The dimmer boards need to be either repaired or replaced, if possible, in our church and chapel.
- Our architect advises us to wait for further technology to develop before addressing this issue.

### **Landscaping:**

- We are very thankful to our dedicated parish gardeners, who make our grounds so beautiful.
- The planting of more perennials needs to be considered for our parish gardens each year.
- We have an ideal setting on a lake that is a well-known feature of our parish trademark.

### **Church Signs:**

- The church signs need to be repaired or replaced with computer-controlled messaging capability.
- In lieu of those options, simple signs with the parish name and address are sufficient for now.
- A parish emblem on the upper part of the south chapel wall would enhance our parish visibility.

### **Parish Center:**

- LED lights eventually need to be installed for energy saving reasons in the parish center.
- The dimmer boards need to be either repaired, or replaced if possible, in the parish center.
- The carpet in the parish center will soon need to be replaced, and the kitchen fully repaired.

Thank you for your generous support, which makes all of these projects possible at our church!

# PARISH STEWARDSHIP NOTES

**Annual Report.** The annual financial report is posted on our parish website. Thank you for your generosity to your parish community. It is very much appreciated. May God truly bless you for your kindness!

**Weekly Donations.** Your weekly offertory donations are for the spiritual and educational programs of our parish community. Thank you for your support through your offertory envelope or through online giving.

**Monthly Donations.** There are three monthly envelopes for our parish debt, for our diocesan second collections, and for our parish charitable outreach programs to the poor in our area. Thank you for your kindness!

**Christmas and Easter.** Now that we have caught up with most of our parish maintenance work, your Christmas and Easter donations will help expedite the repayment of our parish debt for the new roof and parking lot.

**Planned Giving Thoughts.** By the way, have you remembered your parish in your estate planning? Thanks for thinking ahead in this regard! Please consider leaving a memorable legacy for your parish community.

**Online Giving Options.** Please check out the options for online giving on our parish website. If you need any assistance in setting up an online giving account, please contact the parish office. Thank you again!



**Wonderful people built our church! Wonderful people made it grow! Wonderful people will keep it going!**  
Thank you for being an active and supportive member of our Saint Daniel parish community!

**We are a faith community of prayer, learning, and charity.**  
Come and join us as Intentional Disciples of Christ!

# **THE LAST WORD . . . OFTEN THE BEST WORD**

## **SAINT DANIEL CHURCH . . . Welcoming**

- Everything mentioned in this document is certainly important, but there is something even more fundamental to our becoming the very best version of ourselves as a parish community of faith.
- We are now called to bring our parish up to the next level of its ongoing spiritual development, through intentional discipleship and effective evangelization, as a welcoming community of faith.

## **LOOKING UPWARD IN FAITH . . . Praying**

- Sunday Matters: as we improve the quality of our liturgies, we change our lives for the better by educating, motivating, and empowering people to commit themselves to Christ as their God.
- Welcoming Matters: as we reach out to new people, our parish community grows in faith, not just in numbers. We are not a museum of antiquities, but a recruitment post for Christianity.

## **MOVING FORWARD IN HOPE . . . Learning**

- Belonging Matters: family-centered catechesis in our parish religious education program forges a partnership between church and home in evangelizing the next generation of Christian believers.
- Our adult formation initiatives, focusing on small sharing groups throughout the parish, creates personal networks of personal faith-sharing that prepares us for more effective evangelization.

## **LEADING ONWARD IN LOVE . . . Serving**

- Witness Matters: through Christian Service activities, we reach out to our parish neighborhood, including not only our professed parish members, but all people of good will in our local vicinity.
- As "servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God," we preach the gospel through Christian charity, and we also use effective words to accompany our parish outreach to others.

## **TO NEW LIFE IN CHRIST . . . Leading**

- Mission Matters: the book of Proverbs tells us that, where there is no vision, the people perish. As a parish community, we do not want to perish, but rather to fulfill our divine mandate in faith.
- Our mission is to convert the whole world to Jesus Christ, starting with ourselves. By responding to the universal call to holiness of life, the example of our lives is the best form of evangelization.

## **THE LAST WORD . . . Sharing**

- We may currently have the best church parking lot in town, but if we do not pave the way for others to encounter Christ as their God, then our parking lot may just as well remain empty.
- We may currently have the newest lighting in our church, but if the light of Christ does not shine forth in our lives to warm our hearts, then we might as well save the electricity for better things.
- The more we focus on who we are as a parish community of faith, the more we will be blessed by Christ and become a blessing to others by sharing the greatest gift of all, that is, our faith!