



June 2002

The Building Stone ... more "Good News" from Saint James Church to keep parishioners and friends of Saint James informed about the new-church building project.



"Give, and it shall be given to you. Good measure pressed down, shaken together, running over, will they pour into the fold of your garment".

Luke 7:38

Significant milestone passed

Campaign donations reach \$2 million level

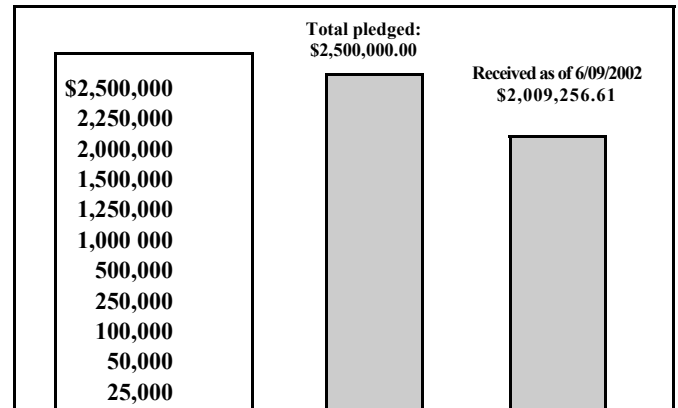
St. James parishioners passed a significant milestone earlier this month on their way to reaching their \$2.5 million in pledges to the new-church capital campaign.

"What a great achievement for the parish and the people of St. James", said **Father Michael Grewe**. "We're certainly well on our way to fulfilling the pledge total for the campaign".

While surpassing \$2 million is significant, Father Grewe said every dollar paid now is important. "We've reached a point where we're using construction loans to finish the project", he said. "The more pledges paid now, the less the parish will need to borrow as a construction loan to finish the new church".


Father Grewe encourages parishioners who've made pledge payments later in the year the last two years to consider giving earlier this year.

"We realize that might not be possible for some because of budgets and other financial obligations", he said. "But any pledge payments made earlier this year will be appreciated and



will save the parish money".

In addition to pledges, special added gifts, as well as memorial gifts, have helped push the total to its current level. While most parishioners have been making pledge payments as planned, some pledges haven't been paid. In those cases, Father Grewe said, he would appreciate hearing from the parishioners involved. "I understand there might be circumstances that make it impossible for some pledge payments to be made now," he said. "I would like to hear from people facing those situations. Perhaps there's even something we can do to help".

Parishioners with questions about pledges should contact Father Grewe at the rectory, 572-0499. 

Committee chair named for new-church dedication


Jackie Simmons, a member of the St. James Parish Pastoral Council, has been named chairman of the new-church dedication committee.

Set for Sunday, Dec. 1, a special dedication Mass with Archbishop Elden Francis Curtiss will be among the special events of the day.

Any parishioners who want to serve on this committee or help in any way with the dedication day pro-

gram should contact the rectory.

One committee related to the dedication, a communication team, already has met once and is beginning work on planning various printed pieces, including a dedication souvenir booklet.

Members of that team include **Randy Grosse, Lisa Schulte, Georgia Johnson, Bob McDonald and Becky Gima.** 

Drilling uncovers a bonus

OPPD contractor begins work on well field

“We’re standing on holy ground”, says one popular hymn.

That phrase also might apply to the land around the new St. James church, but from a somewhat different perspective.

Earlier this month, 26 holes were started in the land southwest of the new church, wells being drilled by Mid-American Drilling, a contractor for Omaha Public Power District, to tap into consistent underground water temperatures for the new church’s geo-thermal heating and cooling system.

Kirk Estee, project coordinator for OPPD, said the drilling is moving along, with work expected to be completed by mid-August. A total of 77 wells—about six inches in diameter and averaging about 190 feet in

depth—will be used for the new church system.

Soil testing is used to help size the well field. If the soil is poor for heat, as many as 200 wells are needed on some projects. Estee said St. James had a mid-range soil, resulting in the 77 wells for the project.

Since drilling began, however, workers have encountered a bonus that should make the system even more efficient—caverns filled with warm water. “Usually, these areas under shale have coal or methane gas”, he said. “But here, we have water and it’s right at 55 degrees”.

With the geo-thermal system, Estee said, water from the wells is pumped up to vertical tubes placed well under the frost line. Those tubes take the 55-degree

water to heat pumps which extract and increase the heat to about 104 degrees for heating in the winter. The water is then re-circulated back through the well fields. The heat pumps reverse the process to cool the water during the summer months.

Drilling and the horizontal pipe work will continue around other work at the construction site. “When they aren’t drilling, they can be doing the horizontal work”, Estee said.

The geo-thermal system is not part of the overall bid for the church but is being done under a separate agreement with OPPD and is being financed through OPPD.

The system, based on current fuel costs, is expected to pay for itself in 6.7 years. ☀

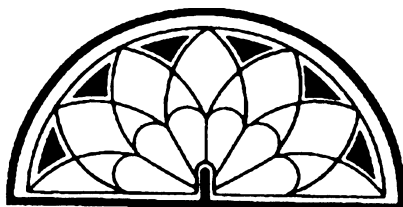
Work continues inside new church walls

Although not always visible to passing parishioners, there’s plenty of work going on inside the new St. James church, with everything still on schedule for a November completion.

Two significant events—one visible from the outside—are scheduled for this week.

Tim Donovan, Lund-Ross spokesman, said the rose windows (the round windows at the north and south ends of the building) should be installed this week. Inside, workers will begin installing the wood portions of the interior ceiling in the narthex and worship space. Staining of that wood has been underway for a week or so.

One outside project—brickwork on the bell tower—has caught the eye of many parishioners.



Once the bricks reach a certain height, Donovan said, the steel erector will return to add the final touches of framing to the bell tower before the bricklayers complete the tower.

Other recent and current work includes:

- ◆ Putting the last touches on the clad windows;
- ◆ Completing the flashing and sheet metal roofing work;
- ◆ Dry walling throughout the interior. Taping and sanding got underway last week and, Donovan said, about 90 per cent of the interior framing is in place.
- ◆ Finishing up the interior brick work. ☀

Our condolences

Our condolences to **Dick Carpenter**, the Lund-Ross on-site project superintendent whom we often quote in the *BuildingStone*. His wife Carol recently died at home after a long battle with cancer.



Rest in Peace