

Faith Formation Committee

The Faith Formation Committee is under the auspices of the Pastoral Council and is responsible for the various education ministries of our parish family. Our lifelong mission should be to grow in our knowledge and practice of our Catholic faith. The purpose of the Faith Formation Committee is to provide programs and activities that will help us on this journey. Just as each of us is on different levels in our journey, the programs also vary to accommodate our different needs.

Some of the Faith Formation Committee programs currently available to us are:

Younger Children

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Children (K-6th grade)

Vacation Bible School (includes pre-school)

Released Time Religious Education First

Reconciliation and First Eucharist preparation

Youth (7-12 grades)

Religious Education

Confirmation Preparation

Retreats

TEC

Jon Paul II Leadership Camp

Discipleship Week

Youth Activities

Diocesan Youth Rally (6th grade also)

National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC)

Teen Dance (Turkey Days)

Cake Walk (Turkey Days)

Youth and Adults

Intergenerational Discussions

Catholic and Interested non Catholic Adults

Right of Initiation of Catholic Adults-RCIA

Adults

Bible Study Groups

Book Club

Seasonal Prayer Books

Monthly dinner and a Movie

Parish Mission

Lenten Retreat

Catecheses before certain weekend masses

The Faith Formation Committee currently has six members and meet approximately once per month. As you can see, they are responsible for many good programs and could definitely use some help. If you are interested in being a part of this committee, please give Cheryl Stegmaier (847-1383) a call for more information and meeting times.

Window Fund

In an earlier article, we wrote about problems discovered with the church steeple during the building addition process. The window fund has very similar beginnings.

The installation of the new elevator required removal of the stained glass window. It was decided to refurbish the window and install it in the main church vestibule as part of the building project.

A review of the other church windows indicated other work needed to be done. The rectangular windows in the steeple were in very poor condition (parts of one were laying on the top of the pipe organ) and the storm windows were in need of attention in the future.

A window fund was established in the fall of 2013.

The two steeple windows were restored and installed in late 2013 at a total cost of \$8400 paid by window fund donations and a loan from the parish general operating fund. Further examination of the windows by the building committee and window experts indicated that conditions were worse than originally thought.

A presentation was given after the April 23 and 24, 2014 masses indicating the need to replace the existing storm windows and begin restoration of the stain glass windows. Estimated costs were \$75,000 to \$100,000 for the storm windows and \$150,000 to \$200,000 for the window restoration.

The need to replace the existing storm windows to protect the stain glass windows from further deterioration as well as increase energy efficiency was identified as the most critical. As a result, after the restoration of the two windows mentioned above, all funds

donated to the window fund as well as 50% of the money you have donated to the combined steeple/window maintenance fund have been applied to installing new storm windows.

We have installed storm windows on the two large stained glass windows at an approximate cost of \$32,000. A storm window was also installed on the entrance window as part of the building project. Work has begun on storm windows for the two windows above the sanctuary.

Window Fund Changes

The article above stated that funds for the window fund are currently being allocated for replacement of storm windows. Even as we work on accomplishing this phase of the window program, we must begin planning and saving for the more expensive window restoration phase. The estimated costs for the restoration are \$500 each for the small windows by St Therese to \$30,000 for one of the large windows. The majority of the windows have an estimated cost of approximately \$8,000. These estimates are based on being able to remove and restore several windows at the same time, thus requiring a substantial amount of money saved to start the project and probably several phases of the project before all of the windows are restored.

Some of you have expressed an interest in sponsoring a window restoration in memory of a loved one. Father Ilango, on the recommendation of the Finance Council and Building Committee, has approved the establishment of a Window Restoration Fund to enable this to happen.

How the Fund Works

1. A plaque will be placed in the Hall of Saints identifying each Stained Glass Window and the memorial or sponsoring group for that window. Example: (in Memory of John Doe or Knights of Columbus)
2. Each sponsor or group will need to contact Tim Stenger (847-2912) or Tom Mickelson (346-3292) and identify the available

window they would like to sponsor. A minimum of 10% of the estimated cost (non-refundable) is required at that time. What is to be engraved on the plaque should also be identified at that time.

3. If 50% of the cost is not received within 12 months, the sponsor will be notified and the sponsorship may be rescinded. Any contributed funds will not be refunded.
4. If 90% of the cost is not received within 24 months, the sponsor will be notified and the sponsorship may be rescinded. Any contributed funds will not be refunded.
5. Restoration will not be scheduled for a sponsored window until at least 90% of the estimated cost has been received. Actual work will not begin until enough windows are able to be done per the contractor's quantity requirements. (app. 5)
6. Plaque engraving will not be done until the window is completed and donations equal to the estimated cost have been received.
7. Donations or Pledges to the Window Restoration Fund must be identified for the specific sponsored window.
8. Donations that are not specified will be applied at the discretion of the building committee and will not be specified on the plaque.

In summary

1. Contributions to the **Window Fund** will be used for replacement of storm windows.
2. Contributions to the **Window Restoration Fund** will be used for restoration of the stained glass windows at the discretion of the building committee.
3. Contributions to the **Window Restoration Fund (Specified Sponsored Window)** will be used for restoration of that window with the sponsor designated memorial or name or group name entered on the restoration plaque.

Informational brochures describing the windows and the estimated restoration costs (actual cost may change over time) are available in the kiosk at the church entrance.