



## SAINT JOHN FISHER PARISH

### A Perspective: More than Just Pizza Nights, Youth Ministry Shapes Today's Teens for Tomorrow



Our building project presently underway has many parishioners and ministry leaders excited about the new opportunities the facility will provide. Our teen ministry program stands to benefit particularly through many of the upgrades happening in the new church and in the Parish Activity Center.

In some ways, the needs of our teens have changed dramatically over the last several years. Expectations placed upon them by schools, parents and colleges are so much higher than they were even when I was in high school just a decade ago. Exams are more difficult, extracurriculars are more demanding, and getting into the college of choice is more competitive. The new Parish Activity Center will allow us as a parish to better support the teens in all of these pursuits. The proposed youth room will be a space dedicated to their needs, versus the space they have now that is also the de facto sorting facility for social outreach ministries.

The Parish Activity Center will be a comfortable, furnished space, borrowing design features from chapels, living rooms, coffee shops, and libraries. There will be advanced technology to allow them to research and recreate in the ways they are accustomed to, and provide a modern and familiar environment without skimping on the comfort factor brought by being in a warm and inviting space. The Youth Center will retain many of the religious symbols and features that are presently in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, so that the space may be easily converted into a quiet, prayerful space as we learn about our religious tradition and explore different ways of prayer and devotional experiences. The Parish Activity Center will also have a large gymnasium where we can burn off that extra energy by playing basketball and other sports and games, as well as host dances,

concerts and other kinds of entertainment and enrichment.

The new church will also be a great asset to our teens in their spiritual growth and personal identification with the Catholic Church. The design of the new church will make it easier to see and hear from anywhere in the building. The round building with the altar located in the center will have a completely different feel, and one much more inviting and welcoming, especially during the Liturgy of the Eucharist, where we should all feel seated around the table of our Lord. The acoustics in the building will be radically improved over what exists in the present church, encouraging greater participation in the traditional hymns of our Catholic faith, as well as the contemporary praise and worship songs we find inspiring and energizing.

Youth ministry is wholly different than it was even just ten years ago. Pizza nights and lock-ins are still important features, but we have to do more to personally and individually cater to the specific needs of this generation and generations to come. With all that is consuming their time, energy and passion, we must invite them to see everything they do through the lens of our Catholic tradition, in a personal and loving relationship with Jesus. The new facilities will go far to tell our young people that they are important, that we are responsive to their needs, and that they are parishioners here, the same as any other.



**Nick Masero**

**Youth Ministry  
Coordinator**



[www.oneloveatsjf.org](http://www.oneloveatsjf.org)



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## A Successful Tour

Thank you to the many parishioners who joined us on touring the completed construction areas and new rectory. There was a tremendous interest in where funds have been spent, as a result, we've updated the website with a NEW Use of Cash Statement.

On February 5, we had \$2,071,215 from 58 pledges. Just two weeks later, the donors doubled and added almost half a million dollars. **Today, we have 116 pledges totaling \$2,510,415!**

Yet, we still need your financial support. In a few weeks, we will be conducting appeals, and everyone again will be given the chance to consider a gift.



Architect Shelly Hyndman leads a Q&A session with parishioners in the rectory courtyard.



## Hello, is Anyone Home?

We've been talking about giving in terms of sacrifice. We're not asking you to sacrifice your child's university education, or the future of your businesses. We are asking you to look at your life, and consider what you could challenge yourself to do without. For some, a penny is being pinched from every direction just to keep their heads above water, but they still give their prayers. However, there are many for whom a gift of sacrifice could be considered.

We are calling on you. We have answered every question imaginable, have heard of many difficult situations, received countless blessings, and many

gifts. However, we have also left hundreds of messages! If you were left a message or missed a call from a volunteer, please do not hesitate to call or stop into the Parish Office to make your commitment. Each and every one makes a difference, and we are grateful for every gift of sacrifice we receive. Please continue to be courteous to your fellow parishioners calling upon you for your support. Your prayerful and financial commitment is critical to our project and directly determines our timeline for all phases of our master plan. Moreover, let our total participation as a parish set the tone for our project: Building Community - Celebrating Faith.

Gift Level	5-Annual Payments	60-Monthly Payments	Weekly Sacrifice	Daily Sacrifice	Daily Sacrifice Item
\$25,000	\$5,000	\$400	\$96.15	\$13.15	The value of one church pew
\$12,000	\$2,400	\$200	\$46.15	\$6.50	Family dinner & movie each month
\$7,200	\$1,440	\$120	\$27.69	\$4.00	Eating lunch out twice a week
\$6,500	\$1,300	\$108	\$25	\$3.57	Starbucks latte
\$5,400	\$1,080	\$90	\$27.70	\$3.95	Family Pizza night once a week
\$4,500	\$900	\$75	\$17.31	\$2.47	Less than 1/gal gas
\$3,600	\$720	\$60	\$13.84	\$1.97	Cup of coffee
\$1,800	\$360	\$30	\$6.92	\$0.98	Less than \$1 a day