



HOLY SPIRIT

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Project Announcement

We want to bring everyone up to speed on the Holy Spirit Building Process. As you may or may not know, we are into our ninth year of a comprehensive project to bring the Holy Spirit Catholic Community together. Since then, there has been remarkable generosity towards this cause, and because of your support, we have been able to accomplish some key milestones towards the effort.

- A 181-acre site was purchased on Gathe Road where our church, school, and gym will one day reside.
- We concluded a successful capital campaign surpassing our goal of \$1.5 million dollars by a few hundred thousand dollars.
- The first phase of construction began, focusing on infrastructure such as sewage. With the consent and approval of the diocese, we have accepted the bid for construction of the building pads, utilities, and construction of the road to the site.

As most of you know, a couple of months ago, the Holy Spirit Catholic Community discussed moving forward with our building project. We hired a firm to conduct a Feasibility and Planning Study and seek your input and guidance. They personally interviewed fifty-five households, which were a representation of our parish leaders, active volunteers, and most generous households. Further, we received responses from 434 parish households in our in-pew survey. However, before making any decisions, we wanted more information. So, a few weeks ago, we conducted an in-pew survey to gauge support of a new idea. Participation was stronger than the last survey and we have almost 1000 respondents from both surveys.

When we studied the findings of our commissioned study, several revelations occurred, and some of these we heard in the previous announcement, but some results are new:

- 75% of parishioners in our pew survey indicated that you had a positive to very positive view of our parish community.
- 89% of parishioners interviewed evaluated our greatest strength was the support of our active community, with many parishioners also citing the active nature of our school, school families and those involved in our ministries and other organizations.
- However, 67% respondents identified our greatest challenge as being divided among chapels, and another 51% say that our second greatest challenge is equal between the lack of convenient, well-maintained facilities, and a perceived lack of construction progress. We take this to mean that the deteriorating state of our current facilities has hastened our expectations of a more accommodating space.
- Yet, with deeper analysis came more understanding of our needs. When discussing the benefits of a building plan, 64% noted the importance of unification while 55% noted one centralized location. Re-examining the previous challenges – spread

between chapels and poor facilities and lack of progress – points to our two biggest benefits of building also mitigating, or solving, our two biggest challenges.

- We also asked what your reactions were to plans for the construction of a Parish Activity Center. The results were illuminating. Of those who understood the proposed plan (347 respondents), 74% were supportive to strongly supportive of the multi-purpose facility.
- Further, 71% of those same respondents, or the majority of respondents, believe the time to proceed is now, and that the parish should not wait to go forward with construction. Only 9% of those respondents did not agree with proceeding at all, which is less than half of those who did not agree with the church project.

The result is a clear increase in parishioner momentum and validates the case for moving forward. We are grateful to all of you who participated in the studies.

After careful consultation, conversations with parish leaders, and thoughtful prayer we have decided to pursue the second part of our building plan, which will prioritize a Parish Activity Center for the entire parish community. This initial facility will be the cornerstone of our master plan. The Parish Activity Center has numerous benefits for our community including its recreation, social, and meeting space; which is why the Parish Council and Core Building Committee endorse this plan for one shared space to unify our community.

The Parish Activity Center will serve as the first “gathering spot” for the Holy Spirit community at Gathe Road. It will anchor that site, provide much needed recreation and meeting space for a wide range of church and school groups, and serve as a visible symbol of progress in our building campaign. The new building, which we believe based on previous similar projects, can be constructed for about \$2.5 million.

There is still planning yet to do, and in order for us to realize the vision, substantial commitments will be required from each and every one of you today and for years to come. Our expectations are high, but remember even God took six days to complete his vision. I ask of you three things:

1. Together, let us raise our sights, our sense of what can be accomplished, and our optimism. 80% of those interviewed, or a great majority of parishioners want to proceed. Everything is possible when we take steps together, support one another, and succeed together.
2. Join us! Join your fellow parishioners who are active in this parish and school community by creating a greater fellowship with one another. Set an example for our youth by getting more involved in this parish community. Set an example to the whole Pocatello/Chubbuck community that the Catholic community is alive, inspired, active, and ready to grow.
3. Finally – Pray. We can only accomplish this project together, so please pray for our success and pray for one another.