

EPIPHANY



CATHOLIC CHURCH

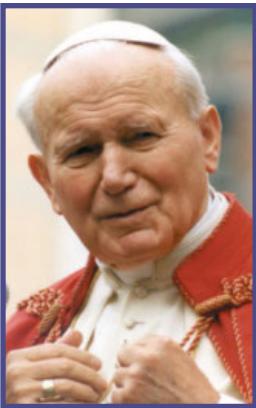
Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ King of the Universe

November 21, 2021

Vision Statement: "To offer every person in our community a life-changing encounter with Jesus."

SAINT JOHN PAUL II

1994 HOMILY ON FRESCOES



CELEBRATION OF THE UNVEILING OF THE RESTORATIONS OF MICHELANGELO'S FRESCOES IN THE SISTINE CHAPEL 8 April 1994

"We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen."

1. Today we are entering the Sistine Chapel to admire the marvelously restored frescoes. They are the works of the greatest Renaissance masters: first and foremost Michelangelo, but also

Perugino, Botticelli, Ghirlandaio, Pinturicchio and others. At the end of this delicate work of restoration, I would like to thank all of you present, and particularly those who in various ways have contributed to such a noble undertaking. This is a priceless cultural and universal heritage. This is confirmed by the countless pilgrims from every nation in the world who come to admire the work of the supreme masters and to recognize in this Chapel a sort of wonderful synthesis of painting.

Lovers of art and beauty have then given proof of their sensitivity by their concrete and remarkable contribution towards the restoration of the Chapel's original bright colors. It was also possible to rely on the work of experts with a thorough knowledge of art restoration work, who made use of the most advanced and reliable technologies in order to carry out their interventions. The Holy See expresses to all of them its cordial gratitude for the splendid results they have achieved.

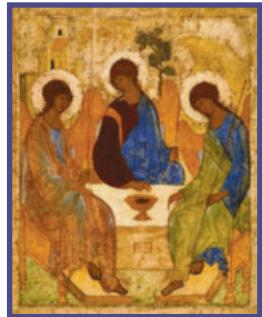
2. The frescoes that we contemplate here introduce us to the world of Revelation. The truths of our faith speak to us here from all sides. From them the human genius has drawn its inspiration, committing itself to portraying them in forms of unparalleled beauty. This is why the Last Judgement above all awakens within us the keen desire to profess our faith in God, Creator of all things seen and unseen. And at the same time, it stimulates us to reassert our adherence to the risen Christ, who will come again on the Last Day as the supreme Judge of the living and the dead. Before this masterpiece we confess Christ, King of the ages, whose kingdom will have no end.

It is precisely this eternal Son to whom the Father has entrusted the cause of human redemption, who speaks to us in the dramatic setting of the Last Judgement. We are in front of an extraordinary Christ. He is endowed with an ancient beauty that is somehow detached from the traditional pictorial model. In the great fresco he strikingly reveals the whole mystery of his glory linked to the Resurrection. To be gathered here dur-

ing the Easter Octave is extremely propitious. More especially we stand before the glory of Christ's humanity. In fact, he will return in his humanity to judge the living and the dead, penetrating the depths of the human conscience and revealing the power of his redemption. For this reason we find his Mother next to him. Christ in the history of humanity is the true cornerstone, of whom the Psalmist says: "the stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone" (Ps 117 [118]:22). This stone therefore cannot be rejected. As the only Mediator between God and men, from the Sistine Chapel Christ expresses in himself the whole mystery of the visibility of the Invisible.

3. The frescoes therefore are at the center of the theological question. The Old Testament excluded any kind of representational image of the invisible Creator. Such in fact, was the command Moses received from God on Mount Sinai (cf Ex 20:4), since there was the risk that the people, who were inclined to idolatry, might choose to worship an image of God who is unimaginable, since he surpasses all human imagination and understanding. The Old Testament was faithful to this tradition, not allowing any image of the Living God either in the houses of prayer or in the Temple of Jerusalem. The members of the Muslim religion who believe in an invisible, omnipotent and merciful Creator and judge of every creature are inspired by a similar tradition.

But God himself meets the needs of man who nurtures in his heart an ardent desire to be able to see him. Did not Abraham welcome the same invisible God in the wonderful visit of the three mysterious personages? (cf. Gn 18:1-14). Before these three people, Abraham, the father of our faith, had a deep experience of the presence of the One and Only. This meeting was to become the subject of the superb icon by Andrei Rublev (to the right), the apex of Russian painting. Rublev was one of those holy artists whose creativity was the fruit of profound contemplation, prayer and fasting. The soul's gratitude to the invisible God who grants man the power to represent him in a visible way was expressed through their work.



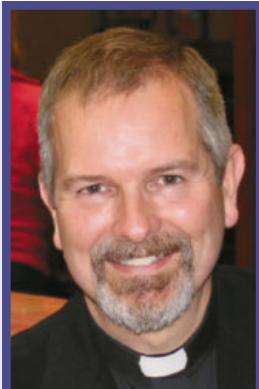
4. All this was assimilated by the Second Council of Nicaea, the last council of the undivided Church, which definitively rejected the position of the iconoclasts, confirming the legitimacy of the tradition of expressing the faith through artistic works. Consequently the icon is not only a work of pictorial art. It is, in a certain sense, like a sacrament of Christian life, since in it the mystery of the incarnation becomes present. In it the Mystery of the Word made flesh is reflected in a way that is ever new, and man - the author and at the same time participant - is gladdened by the sight of the Invisible.

Was it not Christ himself who

Continued on Page 8

FROM FATHER ERIC

LAST JUDGMENT FROM CATECHISM



Dear Friends in Christ,

At the *end* of the Liturgical Year, we focus on various *end* things, the *last* things: Death, Judgment, Heaven, Hell. Let's review the four last things and then reflect together on the **Last Judgment**.

Death is the separation of the immortal soul from the mortal body as the body reverts to its atomic parts, that is, stardust. It comes to all living beings, but to man uniquely as a fruit of original sin. Death is a nerve-racking prospect to be sure, but it passes. At the end of the world, all shall rise for the Last Judgment before Jesus Christ, which sets the seal on the judgment each of us will undergo at death—the particular judgment.

At the moment of death, each human person is judged by God based on his conduct in this life, and goes immediately to his reward or punishment. Moreover, at the end of the world, Jesus Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. At that time, God's whole plan for the world shall be revealed, and his mercy and justice demonstrated.

Heaven is the eternal state of perfect happiness resulting from the face to face vision of God, which is the reward of those who have served Him in this life.

Hell is the eternal state of torment and despair which awaits those who, in this life, have freely rejected God and the happiness which He offers.

Before the end of the world, there will be an intermediate state called purgatory. There, those who are bound for heaven, but whose love for God is still marred by some imperfection, undergo a temporary period of purifying suffering. When this purification is complete, they are fit to enter God's presence and are admitted to the joys of heaven.

THE LAST JUDGMENT

Catechism of the Catholic Church, numbers 1038-1041.

The resurrection of all the dead, "of both the just and the unjust,"⁶²³ will precede the Last Judgment. This will be "the hour when all who are in the tombs will hear [the Son of man's] voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment."⁶²⁴ Then Christ will come "in his glory, and all the angels with him. . . . Before him will be gathered all the

Continued on Page 9

CELEBRATING OUR FAITH

SACRAMENTS SCHEDULE

Mass Schedule

Incense is used at 9:30am Sunday Mass. Ministers have Gluten-free Hosts. 7:30 am Sunday Mass is Broadcast on Facebook at Epiphanyparish.com, with drive up Communion till 8:30am (Canopy). Masks and social distancing required indoors.
*Masks Required.

Sunday, Nov. 21, OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

- | | |
|----------|----------------------|
| 7:30am* | Kenny Flener |
| 9:30am | Wayne Baird |
| 11:30am* | People of the Parish |

Monday, Nov. 22, Saint Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| 7:00am | Rose Ann Lyons |
| Lector: | Deacon Cleary and Karen Overby |
| EME: | Deb Willenborg |

Tuesday, Nov. 23, Weekday

- | | |
|---------|----------------|
| 7:00am | Charles Jensen |
| 8:15am | Lois Haas |
| Lector: | Kris Angles |
| EME: | Dorothy Meier |

Wednesday, Nov. 24, St. Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 7:00am | Taimooraz Taimoorazy |
| 8:15am | Nancy Shevokas |
| Lector: | Chris Niebur |
| EMEs: | Lynda Arnold, Ed and Newze Nnakwe |

Thursday, Nov. 25, Thanksgiving Day

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|
| 7:00am | Tim and Lynda Arnold (liv.) |
| 8:15am | Donald Boozell |
| Lector: | Jennifer Kamradt and Mike Lootens |
| EME: | Darly Menke |

Friday, Nov. 26, Weekday

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------|
| 7:00am | Mary Fettsko |
| Lector: | Mathew and Katrina Kinate |
| EME: | Aggie Hatch |

Saturday, Nov. 27, Blessed Virgin Mary

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 7:30am | All Souls' Day Memorial Society |
| 4:00pm | Helen Larkin |
| Lector: | Steve Gruenwald |
| EME: | Barb Burdett, Mary C. and Keith Walljasper |

Sunday, Nov. 28, FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- | | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| 7:30am* | Kathy Albee |
| 9:30am | Clara and Issa Benyamin |
| 11:30am* | People of the Parish |

Confession Times

7:30am M-F 7am,3pm SAT 7am,9am,11am SUN

PARISH UPDATES

CATCH UP HERE

Epiphany Youth Ministry

High School Youth Group - Service Opportunity! This Sunday, November 21st, Youth Group will give back to our parish community by helping out with odds and ends around the church building. We'll meet in the Parish Hall from 6:30-8pm!

Junior High Youth Group is open to all 6-8th graders and meets once a month. Our next Junior High Youth Group is Friday, December 17th from 7-8:30pm. Come to the parish hall to hang out, have fun, and grow in faith together!

Adult Volunteers Needed! Are you interested in helping with Junior High Youth Ministry? Our team is seeking to expand by one or two more adults who have a passion for helping form our youth and build them up to know and love God in the Catholic faith!

Questions about Volunteering or Youth Ministry at Epiphany? Email Kara at kara.esker@epiphanyparish.com

Accepting Prayer Quilt Requests

Perhaps you know someone who has a special or particular need for prayer at this time. Prayer quilts are a gift of prayer for those needs. Anyone can request a prayer quilt. Request forms are available in the Parish Office and on the Parish website under "Service".

Critical Need for Substitute Teachers

Epiphany Catholic School is seeking applicants for the position of K-8 Substitute Teacher to instruct students and facilitate learning in the absence of the regular teacher. Candidates must possess a bachelor's degree and complete mandatory training. Interested candidates please contact Epiphany Catholic School at 309-452-3268 or email jennifer.kamradt@epiphanschools.org.

The Giving Tree

Every year, Epiphany does a wonderful job in helping with the needs of various charities in our own community through our Giving Tree. Because of the pandemic, we will be collecting monetary donations for PATH Crisis Center, Safe Harbor, Mid Central Community Action (Neville House), Birthright and Catholic Charities. You can contribute

Cover: *The Last Judgment*, 1536-1541, Sistine Chapel, Vatican.

The Last Judgment is a fresco by the Italian Renaissance painter Michelangelo covering the whole altar wall of the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City. It is a depiction of the Second Coming of Christ and the final and eternal judgment by God of all humanity.



in two ways. 1) Go to Epiphanyparish.com and click on E-Giving. The Giving Tree is included in a drop down menu. OR, 2) Write a check to Epiphany Church and place "Giving Tree" in the memo line. The deadline for Giving Tree contributions is December 6th. Please consider assisting those less fortunate.

Carmelite Spirituality Group

Is God calling you to become a Third Order Lay Carmelite? St. Therese of Lisieux said "God would never inspire me with desires which cannot be realized; so in spite of my littleness, I can hope to be a saint." Lay Carmelites are called to live a life in full allegiance to Jesus Christ with our role models Mary our Mother, sister and Patroness, and Elijah the prophet of zeal. If you are 18 years or older, and a Catholic in good standing, you are invited to attend the meetings held every 1st Saturday of the month. These meetings are the beginning stages, as we discern and move toward forming a Third Order Lay Carmelite Community. The next "Carmelite Spirituality Group" will be held on Saturday, December 4th, at 10AM-12PM in the parish hall of Historic St. Patrick's, at 1209 Locust St. in Bloomington. Please RSVP - Lorrie Schmidt T.O.C. (Third Order Carmelite) at: LittlewayofCarmel@gmail.com



EPIPHANY SMALL GROUPS

BRINGING LIFE TO FAITH

John 3:17

Come to this one night small group to study Nicodemus and why Jesus came to SAVE, not condemn. Join Pat Luber as she delves into John 3 and why Jesus came not to condemn, but to SAVE. Offered 6:30-7:30 pm Tuesday, November 30 in the Cenacle Room. See website for more details and to register.

7 Weeks with "The Search"

Do you want to grow deeper in faith with your family? Do you want to have an enriching conversation with your teenager? For Advent take your family on a journey to grow closer together and closer to the Christ Child as we prepare for the Christmas Season. Appropriate for all ages that can sit still for a 30 min video and join in conversation after. The group starts December 2 at 6:30 in the Parish Hall. See the parish website for more details and to register. Questions? Contact Stephanie.Demboski@epiphanyparish.com.

1st Saturday Ironmen Small Group

Men, are you too busy to meet every week? How about monthly? Join us to become Ironmen, on the 1st Saturday of each month. After 7:30 Mass (if you can make it) we will be having coffee and donuts and watching a video about being men in today's world. Join us in the Cenacle Room on December 4th and kick off the new Church year with donuts and fellowship. See website for more information.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Office

(309)452-2585
Epiphanyparish.com

School Office
(309)452-3268
Epiphanschools.org

Fr. Eric Powell (Pastor)
pastor@epiphanyparish.com
309-660-7860

Fr. Peter O. Okola, AJ (Vicar)
Fr.Peter@epiphanyparish.com
703-626-8819

Deacon Mark Cleary (Baptisms)
mcleary08@comcast.net
309-531-1062

Cindy Myers (Pastoral Team)
Pastoral.assistant@epiphanyparish.com

Kara Esker (Youth, CCD, Pastoral Team))
kara.esker@epiphanyparish.com

Stephanie Demboski
Adult Faith Formation and Evangelization Coordinator
stephanie.demboski@epiphanyparish.com

Domine King, Joyce Tellman (Office Staff)
office@epiphanyparish.com; Angie O'Connor (Parish/School Books)
business.manager@epiphanyparish.com

Mike Essington (IT Director) it.director@epiphanyparish.com

Spiritual Directors:
Sylvia Hernandez sylviahernandez50@gmail.com
Deacon Mark Cleary mcleary08@comcast.net

Parish Outreach

If you find yourself in serious economic need, Epiphany Parish and St. Vincent de Paul want to help. Email Orlando Lopez our Outreach coordinator: outreach@epiphanyparish.com.

SHARING IN THE MISSION

THANK YOU!

Gifts from Our Parish Family

November 14, 2021.....	\$11,064
E-giving.....	\$8,259
Special.....	\$827
Parish Endowment.....	\$265
School Endowment.....	\$342
Capital Improvement.....	\$220

Weekly Budget.....	\$24,500
YTD Budget (20 weeks)	\$490,000
YTD Income.....	\$469,193
YTD Balance.....	(\$20,807)

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

BRINGING FAITH TO LIFE

Assist with St. Nick's Bags

Are you looking for a way to serve that doesn't have a big time commitment? Maybe something you can do with the kids? Sign up to fill a St. Nick's bag and pack it with toiletries for those who can't afford them. Take the bag home and pray for those who will receive it and then drop it off at the end of the month Mass. Contact Stephanie.Demboski@epiphanyparish.com to sign up and for more information.





laid the foundations of this spiritual joy? "Master, show us the Father and that will be enough for us" Philip asked in the Upper Room, on the eve of Christ's Passion. And Jesus replied.: "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father ... Do you not believe that I am in the Father and that the Father is in me?" (Jn 14:8-10). Christ is the visible sign of the invisible God. Through him the Father penetrates the whole of creation and the invisible God makes himself present among us and communicates with us, just as the three Figures described in the Bible sat at table and ate with Abraham.

5. Did not Michelangelo draw precise conclusions from Christ's words: "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father?". He had the courage to admire this Father with his own eyes at the very moment when he offered his creating "fiat" and called the first man into existence. Adam was created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gn 1:26). While the eternal Word is the invisible icon of the Father, the man Adam is his visible icon. Michelangelo strove in every way to restore to Adam's presence his corporeity, the features of ancient beauty. With great daring he even transferred this visible and corporal beauty to the Creator himself. We are probably witnesses to an extraordinary piece of artistic audacity, since it is impossible to impose the likeness proper to man on the invisible God. Would this not be blasphemy? It is difficult however, not to recognize in the visible and humanized Creator, God clad in infinite majesty. Indeed, as far as the image with its intrinsic limits permits, everything which could be expressed has been expressed here. The majesty of the Creator, like that of the Judge, speaks of divine grandeur: a moving and univocal word just as, in a different way, the Pietà in St Peter's Basilica and the Moses in the Basilica of St Peter in Chains are univocal.

6. In the human expression of the divine mysteries is not the "kenosis" necessary as a consummation of what is corporeal and visible? Such a consummation has forcefully entered the tradition of the Eastern Christian icons. The body is certainly the "kenosis" of God. In fact we read in St Paul that Christ "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave" (Phil 2:7). If it is true that the body represents the kenosis of God and that in the artistic representation of the divine mysteries the great humility of the body must be expressed so that what is divine can be revealed, it is also true that God is the source of the integral beauty of the body.

It seems that Michelangelo, in his own way, allowed himself to be guided by the evocative words of the Book of Genesis which, as regards the creation of the human being, male and female, reveals: "The man and his wife were both naked, yet they felt no shame" (Gn 2:25). The Sistine Chapel is precisely - if one may say so - the sanctuary of the theology of the human body. In witnessing to the beauty of man created by God as male and female, it also expresses in a certain way, the hope of a world transfigured, the world inaugurated by the Risen Christ, and even before by Christ on Mount Tabor. We know that the Transfiguration is one of the main sources of Eastern devotion; it is an eloquent book for mystics, just as for St Francis Christ crucified contemplated on the mountain of La Verna was an open book.

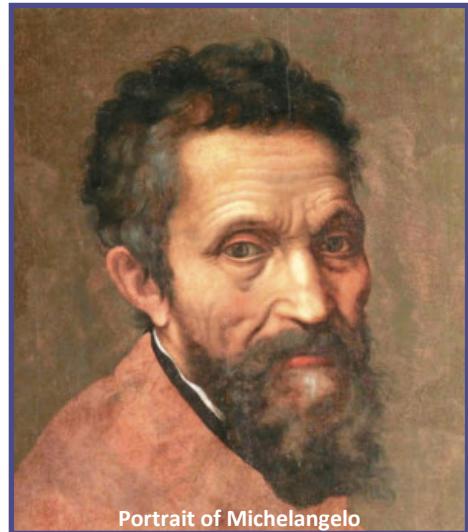
If we are dazzled as we contemplate the Last Judgement by its splendor and its terror, admiring on the one hand the glorified bodies and on the other those condemned to eternal damnation, we understand too that the whole composition is deeply penetrated by a unique light and by a single artistic logic: the light and the logic of faith that the Church proclaims, confessing: "We believe in one God... maker of heaven and earth, of all things seen and unseen". On the basis of this logic in the context of the light that comes from God, the human body also keeps its

splendor and its dignity. If it is removed from this dimension, it becomes in some way an object, which depreciates very easily, since only before the eyes of God can the human body remain naked and unclothed, and keep its splendor and its beauty intact.

7. The Sistine Chapel is the place which contains the memory of a particular day in the life of every Pope. For me, it was October 16, 1978. Precisely here, in this holy place, the Cardinals gather to await the manifestation of God's will as regards the Successor of St Peter. Here, in a spirit of obedience to Christ and entrusting myself to his Mother, I accepted the election that issued from the Conclave, declaring my availability to serve the Church. Thus once again the Sistine Chapel became for the entire Catholic community the place for the action of the Holy Spirit who appoints the Bishops in the Church, and in particular the one who is to become Bishop of Rome and Successor of Peter.

Celebrating the sacrifice of the Mass today in this very Chapel, in the 16th year of my service to the Apostolic See, I pray the Spirit of the Lord to be ever present and active within the Church. I pray that he may conduct her joyously into the third millennium.

I invoke Christ, the Lord of history, so that he may be with every one of us to the end of the world, as he himself promised. — (Mt 28:20).



Continued from Fr. Eric, page 3

nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. . . . And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."⁶²⁵

1039 In the presence of Christ, who is Truth itself, the truth of each man's relationship with God will be laid bare.⁶²⁶ The Last Judgment will reveal even to its furthest consequences the good each person has done or failed to do during his earthly life:

All that the wicked do is recorded, and they do not know. When "our God comes, he does not keep silence." . . . he will turn towards those at his left hand: . . . "I placed my poor little ones on earth for you. I as their head was seated in heaven at the right hand of my Father - but on earth my members were suffering, my members on earth were in need. If you gave anything to my members, what you gave would reach their Head. Would that you had known that my little ones were in need when I placed them on earth for you and appointed them your stewards to bring your good works into my treasury. But you have placed nothing in their hands; therefore you have found nothing in my presence."⁶²⁷

1040 The Last Judgment will come when Christ returns in glory. Only the Father knows the day and the hour; only he determines the moment of its coming. Then through his Son Jesus Christ he will pronounce the final word on all history. We shall know the ultimate meaning of the whole work of creation and of the entire economy of salvation and understand the marvelous ways by which his Providence led everything towards its final end. The Last Judgment will reveal that God's justice triumphs over all the injustices committed by his creatures and that God's love is stronger than death.⁶²⁸

1041 The message of the Last Judgment calls men to conversion while God is

still giving them "the acceptable time, . . . the day of salvation."⁶²⁹ It inspires a holy fear of God and commits them to the justice of the Kingdom of God. It proclaims the "blessed hope" of the Lord's return, when he will come "to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at in all who have believed."⁶³⁰

623 Acts 24:15.

624 Jn 5:28-29.

625 Mt 25:31,32,46.

626 Cf. Jn 12:49

627 St. Augustine, Sermo 18, 4:PL 38,130-131; cf. Ps 50:3.

628 Cf. Song 8:6.

629 2 Cor 6:2.

630 Titus 2:13; 2 Thess 1:10.

—Father Eric

WELCOME! TO EPIPHANY PARISH

"Let all who arrive be received like Christ, for He is going to say, 'I came among you, and you received Me.'"⁶³¹ —Saint Benedict

Vincent & Victoria Ortiz and family

John & Kathlene Lutostanski and family

Pamela Lovell

Steven & Rhonda Crutcher

William & Susan Holtz

Maria Macheck

Lino Flores & Veronica Uribe

OUR DEARLY DEPARTED GRANT ETERNAL REST, O LORD!



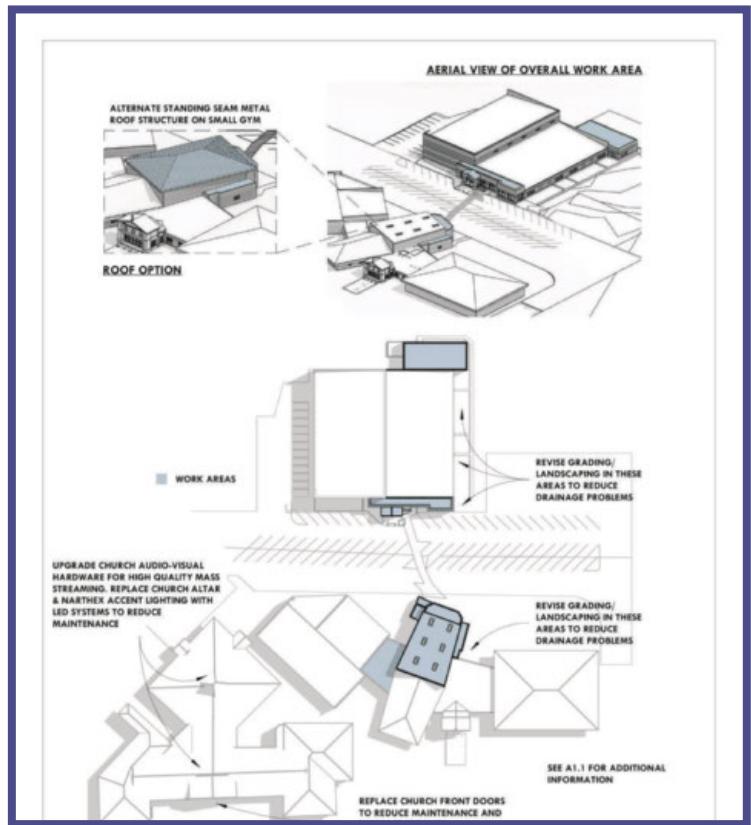
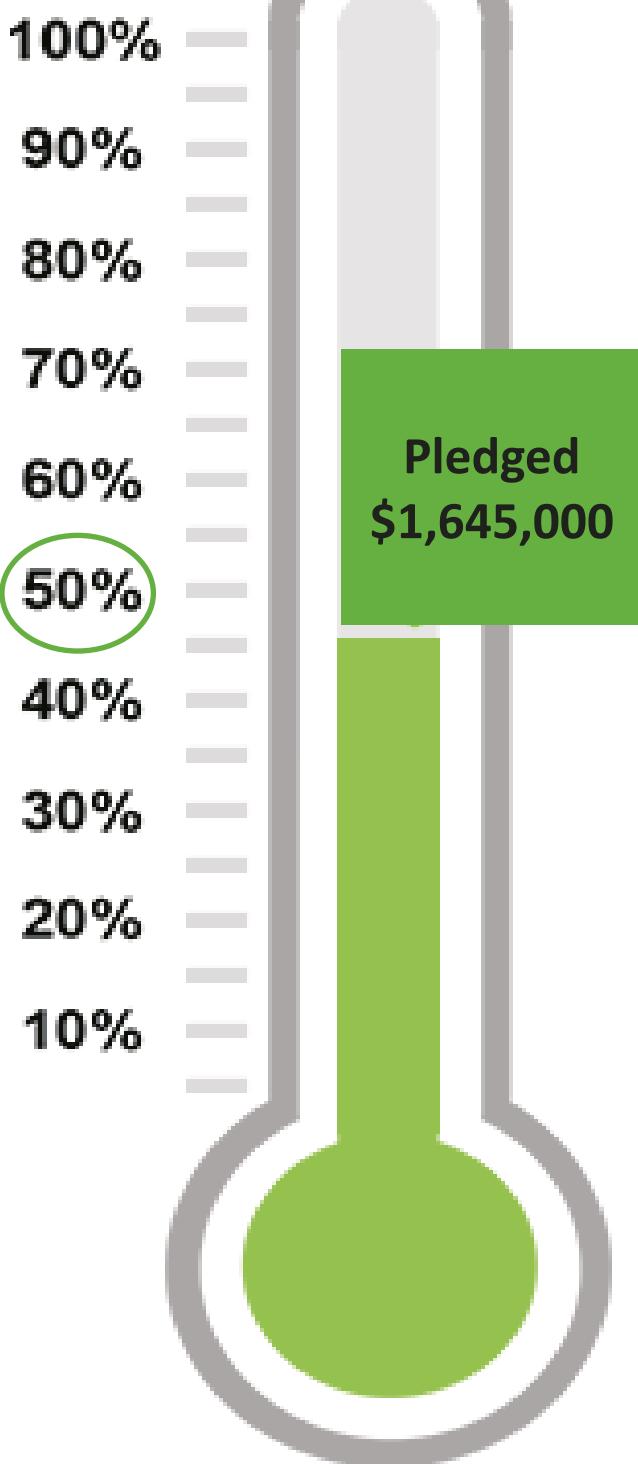
Terrance Hausler, 1932-2021, sister of Doris Ryan.



Ruth Prunty, 1927-2021, sister to Dorothy (John) Meier.

Pledges/Monies Received as of November 14

GOAL: \$3,500,000





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