



# ST. JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH

403 East Minnesota Ave.  
Randall, MN 56475

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## "SHARING GOD'S GIFTS"

Dear Friends in Christ,

*God Bless You All!*

The birth of St. James Church goes back 119 years. By the 1950's, we outgrew our original church located on the other side of town. In 1960/1961 our current church was built through the generous support of our parishioners at the approximate cost of \$140,000. The necessary maintenance, repairs and improvements throughout the years have been accomplished with the generous donations from parishioners, former parishioners, descendants of parishioners, and visitors to our church.

**WHY ARE WE EXPLORING THIS PROJECT?** A committee of parishioners, after recognizing a need, has put together a plan for an addition and remodeling of our present church. Please view the blueprint of the plan on the link.

**WHAT ARE THE NEEDS AND BENEFITS OF THIS PLAN?** Our most pressing need is **Faith Formation classroom space**. We are currently using every nook and cranny of our church and parish house for classrooms. This building project would allow us to have all the classrooms in one building, which would lend to a better learning environment.

**Our fellowship area** is too small to accommodate various functions, such as large funeral lunches, the Christmas Bazaar, and August Fest. We can seat 125 in our present fellowship hall; and that is very crowded. A new fellowship hall would seat approximately 180. Tables and chairs would not have to be constantly put up and taken down.

**Our kitchen area** is very small. Electrical outlets are very inadequate. We do not have enough counter space or storage space. Many kitchen items are currently stored in the parish house. A new up-dated kitchen would greatly alleviate those needs.

**Handi-cap accessible restrooms** for both male and female would be added in the new addition. **The wooden curtain** dividing the main body of the church and our current fellowship hall does not open-close properly. A major repair or replacement is necessary. The wooden curtain would be replaced with glass. There would be a double door in the center of that glass divider. This would provide for a gathering area in the back of the church. It would also allow families with young children, if they choose, to be on the other side of the glass divider and still feel like part of the congregation. This area behind the glass divider could be used for reviews before funerals rather than using the main body of the church, allowing for a more reverent atmosphere in the main body of the church.

**ANTICIPATED BUILDING PLAN TO MEET THESE NEEDS:** A 60' x 92' addition would be added to the south end of the church. This extension would reach out to the current parking lot. The extension and remodeling would accommodate 9 classrooms, 2 storage rooms, double the size and update the kitchen, increase our fellowship hall capacity to 180, and provide handi-cap restrooms, and an inside handi-cap ramp.

**COST FOR THIS BUILDING PROJECT:** The cost of the building project would be approximately \$800,000. We currently have approximately \$200,000 on hand. We would need \$400,000 cash on hand plus at least another \$300,000 in pledges in order to start this building project.

Please prayerfully consider your donation. If we as individuals pull together, we believe this could become a reality. We have identified the needs and listed the benefits that this project will mean for the members of our parish. Some might say 'it costs too much,' 'is this really worth it?', 'why can't we just get by with what we have?' These are legitimate questions and concerns. However, if those who made the decision to build this church and put their time, talent, and money into building this church hadn't done so; we would still be on the other side of town in our little frame church.

On any given Sunday morning, we are attending Mass because of the hard work and generosity of our ancestors. Few of us had a stake in the actual construction of our current church. You might say that our physical church, and our faith, is a gift to us from those who went before us. Thank God for their generosity and foresight. Let us look to the future and invest in those who will come after us. As followers of Christ, we are expected to be generous with our time, talent, and treasure. Each one of us is called to give. We are asking for financial support, co-operation, prayers and trust that we as individuals and as a parish will be blessed by God many times over in the years ahead. Our goal is to start this summer of 2016. God is in control and we just join Him.

Fr. Jimmy Joseph  
Your priest

For any question don't hesitate to contact :

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