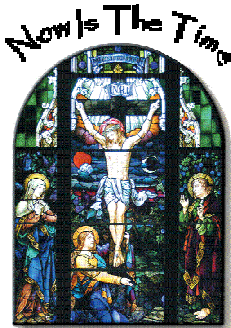


Saint William Catholic Church

“I give thanks to my God at every remembrance of you, praying always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Phil 1:3-6)



Special points of interest:

- Week of Prayer April 18-24
- Commitment Weekend April 24/25
- First Fruits Weekend May 9

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Narthex a place of welcome

RCIA and Renovation/Expansion: You may have attended the 9:15 AM mass and seen a group of people called to the altar after the homily and then dismissed. These are the catechumens and candidates of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults journeying toward Easter when they will be fully initiated into the church and join us as members of our community. They are being dismissed to go “Break Open the Word” which they have just heard proclaimed in mass. Ideally they would not leave the church building to do this. They would remain inside and in the prayerful surroundings, near to the community still at prayer.

Unfortunately, we do not at this time have the space for them to do that. Instead we cross a busy street to the parish office building. It’s a short trip, but one that adds a hurdle to reflection upon and sharing of the readings and prayers of mass. In the new expansion plans, in the Narthex area, there is a meeting room. One of its primary functions will be to house this part of the RCIA experience. You can be sure it will see other uses for meetings and gatherings of ministers or committees or any group of parishioners for whom their gathering would be best served by proximity

to our sanctuary while not being directly in the sanctuary. It will be a good sign of welcome to those entering the church and of respect and concern for the ministries of our parish.



Each of us should have a seat.

Faith

The dictionary tells us that faith is 1) **A belief and trust in and loyalty to God** 2) **firm belief in something for which there is no proof** 3) **Complete trust** 4) something that is believed with strong convictions. Without a doubt! Or question!

The words are easy to read and say, but the real test is living this belief.

It comes when God, through the vision of our church community, asks us to step out beyond the everyday to believe in some new thing with such conviction that even though there is not proof, we support it completely. We will be asked to express our faith in just this way. We will be asked to look beyond what sounds feasible and reasonable and to do even more for our parish.

What does Faith mean to us, if the real test is complete trust, are we ready?

When I was a little girl we moved a lot but no matter where we moved my dad always planted a garden with beautiful flowers. I asked him why, when we were moving, did he bother to plant flowers, he said "when we leave and someone else comes they will feel welcome and at home." It is time for us to plant the garden that will welcome someone new and make them feel at home.

A Journey of Conversion

This Easter will be my 30th anniversary as a Catholic. 30 years ago at the Easter Vigil I was brought into a community, another form of family.

I entered because there was room for me in the Church, both physically and spiritually.

I was welcomed as a long lost sister who had finally found her way back home. I was no longer the stranger at the door.

How do we treat the stranger at our door? Do we make a place for them, at times giving up our place to make them feel welcome? Or

do we make them feel as though they are intruding into our space?

When did we become a Church of them and us?

When did we remove the welcome from our door?

Perhaps this isn't simply a capital campaign, but a time for inner searching to see if we can find that welcome in us.



Perhaps this is a time to see what our faith truly means to us.

Do we carry it with us daily, or is it left in the parking lot as we race out to lunch, or dinner?

When was the last time you had a conversation with someone after church that you never met before, made a new acquaintance, perhaps a new friend?

This is a time to reflect on what it means to be a Christian, a Catholic.

Now is the Time to find who we truly are.

Janet Mitchell, Social Ministry/Stewardship



Paschal Candle and the Baptismal Font

The New Narthex Area: We all know that more seating and an improved sanctuary are the two primary reasons behind the expansion of our church building. But the new Narthex area is a big step not only in helping to meet those needs but provide for even more. There are larger and vastly improved restroom facilities, a larger Gift Shop and more storage space. A Bridal/Reception room that is actually welcoming. But there are great benefits to our ministries as well. The Meeting Room and its use for the RCIA have been mentioned elsewhere and Janet can tell us about the improvement when it comes to the Rite of Christian Burial. The Ushers' Room will be theirs and allow them the space to neatly store what they need to be Ministers of Hospitality - and all that means - to all who come. The large Narthex will provide the space we should have to transition from the world outside to the sanctuary where we will pray, worship and celebrate the Lord's goodness to us. Now, if you have served as a Reader, Server or an EM in our masses you know how small our present sacristy is and what a traffic jam it can be before and after mass. The new Narthex Area has a Dressing Sacristy for the priests and deacons and a Ministers Room for the Readers and EMs. No more dealing with being too crowded when preparing for mass. And bigger and better Reconciliation Rooms for all. It frees up existing space for seating and greatly improves the space we will have for these functions and needs.

Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture, and Worship USCCB

The church building fosters participation in the liturgy. Because liturgical actions by their nature are communal celebrations, **they are celebrated with the presence and active participation of the Christian faithful** whenever possible. Such participation, both internal and external, is the faithful's "right and duty by reason of their baptism." The building itself can promote or hinder the "full, conscious, and active participation" of the faithful. Parishes making decisions about the design of a church must consider how the various aspects and choices they make will affect the ability of all the members to participate fully in liturgical celebrations.

What Will a Revitalized Parish Church Mean to Ministry

Each year St. William plans and provides space for over 60 funerals. Our current space does not allow for the full Rites of Christian Burial to be carried out in the church and the parts of the Rite that are done in the church are done in a much smaller space than is truly called for in the Rite. *In designing the seating configuration, parishes will want to consider the size and placement of the casket and the paschal candle during funerals as well as the presence of the cremated remains when cremation has taken place before the funeral Mass. Good planning will ensure that doors and aisles are wide enough for pall bearers to carry a coffin easily.* **Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture, and Worship** USCCB Right now our aisles are too narrow to accommodate the carrying in of the coffin, and there is not practical space to have the Vigil in the Church.

The Religious Education here at Saint William's flows from hospitality. We focus on the family as a whole, not just the children. Parents are the primary educators of their own children and in recognizing that we become partners in helping our children in the practice of their faith. It is all a part of the complete whole picture of what Saint William parish is all about. We are only here for and because of the People of God. Right now we have many of those People who do not have a place at the altar because of space. We see

many stories in the New Testament where Jesus had to climb to a higher location in order to be heard by all. We are in that situation now, we need to climb to higher ground to be seen and be heard by all the People of God who are trying to get in the door. Jesus never turned anyone away like we are doing now because of lack of space. Practically, our First Communion classes are becoming larger and in order for their families and extended family to fit into our space often they have to sit in the very back or in the bal-

cony. With more seating more of that extended family could be seated together in a more hospitable manner. Our church that was built for 800 families is now trying to accommodate 3,500 families.

“NOW IS THE TIME.”

Mary Jane Spirk
Director of Family
Faith Formation



God begins the work of sanctifying people in time and space and brings that work to completion.

Those who respond to God in worship and in service are given the privilege of becoming co-workers in the divine plan. USCCB

Capital Campaign



Saint William Parish
750 Seagate Drive
Naples, Fl. 34103

saintwilliam.org

The Scriptures make clear that God measures the gift, not in relationship to others, but in relationship to one's resources and in what is left over after the gift. Paul said, "For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has" (II Corinthians 8:12)

Number of Giving Persons	Number of Gifts Needed	Total 3-Year Gift	Divided by 156 Weeks
			Average Weekly
1	Gift At	\$1,000,000	\$6410.00
2	Gift At	\$500,000	\$3205.00
4	Gifts At	\$300,000	\$1923.00
6	Gifts At	\$150,000	\$961.00
8	Gifts At	\$100,000	\$641.00
10	Gifts At	\$75,000	\$480.00
15	Gifts At	\$50,000	\$321.00
20	Gifts At	\$25,000	\$160.00
25	Gifts At	\$18,000	\$115.00
35	Gifts At	\$15,000	\$96.00
50	Gifts At	\$10,000	\$64.00
85	Gifts At	\$5,000	\$32.00
245	Gifts At	\$3,000	\$19.00
_____	Gifts At	_____	