

Our Lady of the Assumption

145 Wheeler St. Leavenworth WA - 98826

September 2020

Dear Parishioners:

We hope that you enjoyed attending or viewing the dedication ceremony held on August 29th on our Peshastin site. This faith-filled journey continues to reveal God's grace as evidenced by the number of people who donated time to clean the site, build the stage and plan the ceremony. We are becoming keenly aware that He is not only guiding us to build His church but also intervening to assist us in growing and enriching our collective spiritual community. This observance marked a positive milestone toward our future and a reassurance that there will be a prominent presence of the Catholic faith in the upper valley for decades to come.

On the day of the ceremony we received updated information from our architects that the permits to begin Phase 1 (the rectory) have now been officially approved enabling us to hire a contractor and to actually begin construction. Also, in August it came to our attention that real estate agents were experiencing an increase in high volume real estate sales in the Leavenworth area. With this knowledge, it would be reasonable to expect that selling the Leavenworth church building and property could yield double what had been projected just a year ago.

With knowledge of the current robust real estate market, each church committee (Communication, Executive Building, Liturgy and Pastoral Council) met to evaluate the challenges and opportunities of this updated information. When put to a vote in each group, it was a unanimous consensus to move forward with the sale of the Leavenworth church building and property with the intent that any proceeds would be added into our existing building fund account to erect the new church.

We knew this time was coming and with gratefulness and respect we will hold dear three decades of memories - so many Masses, Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, Weddings, Funerals, gatherings and prayers in the Meadows and social times at the Knights of Columbus breakfasts. Many of these revered occasions comforted us along life's journey and have allowed us to grow in community and faith.

As a follow-up, a letter was drafted to Bishop Tyson to ask for his approval for this transaction. He consulted with his diocesan advisors, the College of Consultors, and collectively they have granted permission to enter into a sale agreement.

The overall plan moving forward currently and post-pandemic is to continue drive-in Masses but to move the location to the Peshastin site starting on September 20th. As determined by weather or event requirements, the Cashmere church would house indoor Masses and other liturgical gatherings.

During the dedication ceremony Bishop Tyson wholeheartedly encouraged our building project reminding us that "you are building anew, building up, not restoring, but resurrecting." He challenged us to commit in a post-pandemic world to creating spiritual pathways leading the faithful to our new church and also to one another as believers in the same God. With God's grace and the intercession of Our Lady of the Assumption, we pray that we may be able to carry out the Bishop's wishes.

Respectfully, yours in Christ,

Father Miguel González

Bill Dronen
Communication Chair

Donna Zukowski
Executive Bldg Comm Chair

Allison Zimmer
Liturgy Chair

Barb Agnew
Pastoral Council Chair

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