

Good Morning

I've been asked to provide a testimony about what Holy Family Church means to my Family and how this new Atrium will add to our lives.

Let me begin by telling you we are one of the original 100 families that attended Mass in school gyms. It was 1980 when we began our journey to build the Church you are currently sitting in now. Times were tough in 1980, interest Rates were 18%, inflation was 12.5%, the families were young and had small children. I was 15 at the time and remember how our community gathered together to help with the construction in anyway they could. Some helped with labour, others helped by supplying food and drinks, but we all tithed to insure the Church had the money to complete what we had as our vision. Once the construction began, the question was Why do we need such a large Church? What are we going to do with all the extra space? Today, we have 5000 active families attending Holy Family Church and we are still in the same building.

Times were simpler 40 years ago, Sundays were a statutory day off, very few stores were open for business, so the Church was a very vibrant and social place to gather. I remember coming to 9:30 Mass and not getting home until 2 or 3 in the afternoon. We would visit family and friends that we saw at Church and this happened every weekend. It was quite fun. Fast forward to 2023, Sundays are just another day of work, or a day for kids sports, grocery shopping, getting prepared for the week ahead, and Church is an hour so let's get it over with. It's very tough these days to make ends meet, to sit down and socialize or, take a day off to do nothing. I was skeptical when they first introduced this new addition. Where will we get the money?, I can't afford to give anything, I don't have time to help, how long will the Church be closed while they build the addition? As I prayed on this and I talked to other Parishioners it started to make more sense to how, where, when and why we need this Atrium. Let's make this addition the beginning of New and Vibrant Holy Family Community.

Father Laszlo introduced me to a book that changed my life. Rebuilt! Since reading that book it opened or reopened my eyes to the importance of our Church. Since that book our Church Community exploded with Mass in the Park, over 33 different ministries, gathering of small groups, youth groups for all ages, world pilgrimages, the Gather Cafe, and many more social groups. But where do these people meet?

The new space will help. It'll be open 7 days a week. How many of you meet with family, friends, or colleagues at a coffee shop? Where do you go? Tim Hortons, McDonalds, Starbucks? I to meet there and what happens when I do, trouble finding a parking spot, or no seats available, or it's so loud I can't hear myself speak. Why not come and use the new Atrium, plenty of parking, quiet, and the coffee is free. Students can use this new space to do homework, group study sessions, and socialize. Family gatherings, school proms, what else can you think of to use this space? The more I talk about this new build the more excited I get about it and think to myself maybe this addition may be too small for this thriving Holy Family Community!

The 100 families in 1980 sacrificed what they had to provide for their children and this community and I am proud of what they accomplished. Now it is my turn to sacrifice and provide for the future of this Church and the well being of this Community.

9:30 and 11:00

Come downstairs to the Knights room to answer any questions or to ask how you can help.

Thank You and God Bless!