

Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church

315 N. Constitution Ave. New Freedom, PA 17349 (717) 235-2156



Dear Friends,

This is an important and exciting time for all of us at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church!

In response to the safety concerns with the Church carpet and the Atrium tile that were identified over the Summer Months, I met with parishioners and formed a Renovation Committee to assist me in finding a solution to these problems. Guided by prayer and our own evaluations, we realize that these safety issues are interwoven with various additional concerns and the opportunity to improve our spaces to meet the current use of our buildings. This has started a process that is revealing that our beautiful Campus is in need of repair, refreshing, and renovation. All of this has been inspired by our Parish mission, that we will, even more authentically and faithfully, *“give witness to the presence of the kingdom of God in ourselves, our families, our parish, the local community, and the world.”*

As Disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to give witness to the glory of God and to be faithful stewards of the blessings that have been entrusted to us, to this end we need to observe the present circumstances of our buildings and have a vision that includes our future needs as a Parish Family. Out of this intent came our proposed vision. In order to move ahead, it is important for me, as your pastor, to hear what is on your minds and hearts for our facilities and property. This is our parish – this is our Church and our Campus of buildings – your input is essential in this process.

To this end, the next step in this process is called a Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study will evaluate what is needed and possible, by gaining insights from each of you. With this goal in mind, so that your input can be received in an organized and timely manner, we have brought on some additional help from our friends at Kirby-Smith Associates, who will be reaching out to you in the coming weeks to ask for your valuable feedback on the proposed vision.

You will be able to arrange to meet with them either at the parish or at a location of your choice. If meeting in person is not feasible for you, you can make arrangements for a conversation by phone or Zoom. Please welcome their call with hospitality and speak with honesty, an honesty borne of confidence in God’s grace. All feedback will be held in the strictest of confidence. Additionally, a survey is included with this mailing (it is also available online at bit.ly/SJBsurvey2022).

In closing, I ask for your openness to this process, for your input in the Feasibility Study, and – most importantly – for your prayers: please pray that the Lord will continue to guide and bless every aspect of our Parish Life!

Saint John the Baptist, pray for us!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Mark T. Wilke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Mark T. Wilke, Pastor