



ST. ROBERT OF NEWMINSTER PARISH  
...SO THAT ALL PEOPLE CAN KNOW GOD  
AND BE TOUCHED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

September 27, 2022

Dear friends in Christ,

I am blessed to have been assigned as your pastor here at St. Robert of Newminster Parish. The Holy Spirit is working in our parish, and I look forward to seeing how the Spirit will continue to transform our parish as we move forward, growing in faith.

I am writing to you about potential updates and enhancements to our facilities and campus.

The updates and enhancements will address the following needs:

- Our limited space for faith formation and parish ministries—with the largest faith formation program in the diocese, we are unable to accommodate all of our students as well as additional parish ministry programs due to a lack of space.
- A lack of space for our growing Catholic school—with 105 enrolled students, and plans to add three more grades in the upcoming years, St. Robert Catholic School is in need of additional space. (Please see enclosed sheet with additional information about the history of St. Robert Catholic School.)

While there has been a variety of information shared with you to date, it is my intention, and that of parish leadership, to begin the process of educating the parish concerning the needs, plans, cost, and funding plan throughout October of this year. Following the informational period, we will begin a pre-campaign feasibility study to receive input, feedback, and to determine the willingness of the entire parish family to financially support the proposed renovation and expansion effort.

Along with information shared on the parish website and in the bulletin, you are invited to attend a Town Hall meeting to learn more about the project and planning process. The Town Hall meetings will be held:

Saturday, October 15, 2022, in Newminster Hall at 5:30 pm, following the 4:30 pm Mass

Sunday, October 16, 2022, in Newminster Hall at 12:00 pm, following the 11:00am Mass

Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 7:00 pm virtual meeting, join by visiting <https://bit.ly/3fmfu1v>

I ask all of you to keep me and the leadership involved in this endeavor in your prayers, and I challenge you to be open-minded as we contemplate God's Will in our lives individually, and most importantly as a parish family.

Thank you for all you do on behalf of St. Robert of Newminster Parish.

Fr. Tony Russo, Pastor

Enclosure

## ST. ROBERT CATHOLIC SCHOOL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### A BEAUTIFUL GIFT

From a historical perspective, when St. Robert of Newminster church was built in 1951, the addition of a Catholic school was a part of the plan. Adding a school to our parish campus has been discussed over the years, with the most recent survey of parishioners completed in 2017.

The survey results were favorable for a school that would begin with preschool through second grade. After careful consideration, the plan was revised to start the school with preschool through kindergarten and add a grade every year through eighth grade.

Following the survey, conversations amongst a small group of private philanthropists continued about the possibility of a Catholic school in the Ada area. Over time, the group's conversations became intentional discussions, and the concept of an independent school was presented to Bishop Walkowiak in the fall of 2017. With Bishop Walkowiak's blessing, the group of philanthropists developed a plan to open an independent Catholic school on our parish campus. With the group providing 100% of the cost of construction for the renovation of space for the school and operational start-up funding, St. Robert Catholic School opened in September of 2018.

St. Robert Catholic School is a *beautiful gift* to our parish. The school is thriving, with 105 Preschool through Fifth Grade students enrolled for the 2022-23 school year—a 30% increase over last year. Today, we are called to embrace this gift and *walk alongside* our benefactors so our school can continue to flourish and be fully enriched as a unified member of our St. Robert faith family.

With the support of our faith community walking alongside our benefactors, who will continue to support the school, our school's projected growth by the 2025-26 school year is anticipated to be 202 students.

Your prayers, patience, and understanding are deeply appreciated as this beautiful gift, St. Robert Catholic School, continues to provide a Catholic emersion education in the Ada community.

### ST. ROBERT CATHOLIC SCHOOL TIMELINE

