NEW, LARGER CATHOLIC CHURCH BUILDING DEDICATED IN PALMYRA

Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 245 West Pine Street, Palmyra, PA will hold a dedication for their new, larger church at 4:00 pm on Saturday, August 27, 2011. This coincides with the 54th Anniversary of the Dedication of its historic church building. A reception will follow in the former church building after the Dedication.

The Most Reverend Joseph P. McFadden, Bishop of Harrisburg will preside at the Rite of Dedication. The Right Reverend Douglas R. Nowicki, O.S.B., Archabbot of Saint Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, PA, will also take part in the ceremonies.

The new 13,850 square foot structure provides seating for about 625. The new church has the capability of being further expanded to seat an additional 250-300 seats, depending on future growth.

It is built adjacent to the current church, which sits on about six acres at 245 West Pine Street in Palmyra. It is connected to the current church with a large 1,500 square foot Narthex. The current Sanctuary, which seats under 300, will become a new Social Hall.

The new $3,000,000 addition also includes a new 980 square foot day chapel with 45 seats (for daily Mass and perpetual adoration), a new reconciliation chapel, new restroom facilities, new off-street parking lots, and a multipurpose meeting room.

Hayes-Large Architects, from Harrisburg, PA, provided architectural services for the project that also include special features such as a 76 foot light tower, decorative truss & wood ceilings in the Sanctuary, and a vaulted ceiling in the Narthex providing height for clear viewing of the front of the church.

eciConstruction, LLC from Dillsburg, PA, a member of the project design build team, provided construction services for the new Sanctuary addition.
The Catholic Church in Palmyra traces its origination to 1915, when Milton S. Hershey, in memory of his late wife, a devout Catholic, donated land in Hershey, PA, to serve Catholics living in Hershey and Palmyra. This Church was named for St Joan of Arc.

In the 1950’s, the growing numbers of Catholic families in Palmyra made it necessary for Reverend Anthony Mayan, Pastor of Saint Joan of Arc Parish in Hershey to erect a separate “mission church” for parishioners living in Palmyra.

This first “Church of the Holy Spirit” was dedicated August 25, 1957, by The Most Reverend George Leech, Bishop of Harrisburg, but was maintained as a “satellite” of Saint Joan with their priests coming to celebrate two Masses every Sunday for about 150 families. Holy Spirit then became an independent parish in May, 1965, with Reverend Francis Lahout the first resident Pastor to 246 households.

Robust growth in the Palmyra Catholic Church led to initial preparations for new, larger facilities which began in 1998 under then pastor, Reverend David Danneker. In 2002, current pastor, Benedictine Father James Podlesny, conducted a Feasibility Study leading to a series of Town-Hall style meetings of the parish. Preliminary drawings for a new church were drawn up and a capital campaign kicked-off in 2004.

Today, Holy Spirit Parish has grown to over 950 households and is experiencing the kind of problem every Church wishes they had: there is “no room at the inn”!

Holy Spirit is a warm and welcoming parish where people from many diverse backgrounds and cultures can be joined in a strong sense of community. We have many service-oriented ministries: religious education, a vibrant Senior Ministry, growing youth ministries, VBS, four music ministries, prayer ministries, and many other ministries. Additionally, we have a Perpetual Adoration Chapel to continue our mission to an ever-growing Catholic community.

Our mission is to seek to know the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ, to celebrate together as a Catholic family of faith and to share our gifts and talents in loving service to others.

We pray that our Parish continues to be "filled with the Spirit," as we give honor to all those who came before us and to all who will come after us.