



**Saint Joseph the Worker Capital Campaign**  
***Gathering Our Faith Family***

***Frequently Asked Question?***

**Q:** What data was the basis for making this the right time to build a Family Life Center?

Everyone who regularly attends any of our Sunday Masses has noticed the added number of worshipers. It is evident in the crowded conditions in the Church, the people sitting on folding chairs in the Narthex, and the parking on the grass. Drop by the Church during the week and observe the meetings of the Safety and Security Committee, the Welcome Committee, the Building & Grounds Committee, the two choir practices, Bible Studies, RCIA classes, Religious Education classes, money counters, the monthly food collection pickups, etc. Then add in the people dropping by the office for Mass intentions, meetings with Father, people requesting assistance, or asking for Church Registration forms. The activity level of weekday and weekend, attest to the fact more people is equaling a greater need for meeting and office space. This anecdotal data is what led Father Julius to ask a committee to study the need for more space. The Family Life Center Committee went to work.

One of the preliminary steps taken was to analyze the demographics of the parish over the last three years (2021 – 2023). That data was share with the parish last year. Since the first of 2024, the crowded conditions continue to expand. The committee updated the information with the first six months of 2024 demographics. The growth is truly amazing. Our parish has grown at a rate of about 10% - 12% annually for the past 3 to 4 years and it is expected that we will continue to see this type of growth every year for the next several years. The categories of data calculated and analyzed were monthly Mass attendance, number of registered Individuals, and the number of registered families. The results of that updated analysis are on the reverse side of this page. We should note that initially the Committee considered outside factors that would also impact the potential growth of our parish. They contacted the Diocese for their forecast of future growth and Monroe County for their data. The Diocese indicated continued growth in the diocese. In fact, in the country, the Diocese of Knoxville is projected as having a high growth of Catholic migration. Monroe County didn't have updated population data for our use, but pointed to the businesses moving to the area which brings new jobs and families to the county.

The new Family Life Center will create additional space for parish activities, meetings, educational classes, and social gatherings. The addition of a larger kitchen will permit more food type of activities such as Socials, Lenten Meals, Fish Fry, Holiday parties, etc. The FLC will also allow the parish to hold Masses in the future when the decision is made to build/expand our church. The new space will allow us to Celebrate our Joys, continue to Learn our Faith, and Open our Hearts to the needs not only of parishioners but our neighbors as well.

We ask all to daily say our Prayer for the Success of the Campaign. We need the guidance of the Holy Spirit to make our plans a reality.