DEAR FRIENDS IN CHRIST

Saint Benedict parish is participating in One Church, Many Disciples along with every church in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City. This first ever major campaign will build a Shrine for Blessed Stanley Rother, support faith formation ministries and strengthen local parishes, including Saint Benedict parish. We join with faithful from across the archdiocese who are also helping to ensure our local church is strong and vibrant for generations to come.

As an archdiocese, we form a faith community of 200,000 Catholics in central and western Oklahoma; we truly are One Church, Many Disciples! With the Beatification of Blessed Stanley Rother, each of us has the opportunity to share in his legacy. What an occasion to live Jesus’ call to missionary discipleship.

Please take a moment to review the impact One Church, Many Disciples will have on Saint Benedict parish. This campaign has my full support and, as your pastor, I hope you will embrace this opportunity here at Saint Benedict parish.

Rev. Joseph P. Schwarz

OUR PARISH ROOTS

In the early 1890’s, Fr. Felix Degrasse began celebrating Mass in Shawnee in the homes of early settlers. In August of 1895 Father Felix Degrasse, O.S.B., purchased lots at the corner of Ninth and Park Streets and construction of the first church and rectory under the title of St. Benedict began. The first church was built in the style of an auditorium. By 1905, St. Benedict Parish had grown quite noticeably and there was much talk of needing a new church and of changing location. On July 29 1906, the cornerstone of a new brick church was laid and on May 12, 1907, the new St. Benedict Church was dedicated. In 1915, the old church building was sold to Peter Marak, Sr., who moved it to the corner of Kickapoo and Dewey streets and used the building as a grocery store and feed store. There it stayed until destroyed by a cyclone on March 28, 1924. In 1962, under the guidance of Father James Murphy, O.S.B., the inside of the church underwent extensive remodeling. In 2006, the stained glass windows were refurbished and plate glass was installed on the outside to fit the tracery of the wood frames and ventilated. The wood frames were also repaired and painted.
PARISH LIFE TODAY

St. Benedict Parishioners continue their journey of faith, worshiping daily in St. Benedict Church. The mission of the parish continues to be a worshiping Roman Catholic Community in Shawnee, Oklahoma, who strive to live the mission of Jesus Christ through prayers, the Sacraments, the study of His work, the teachings of His Church, and through stewardship. The parishioners are committed to minister to all parishioners and non-parishioners with love, respect and support. Inspired by God, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, they wish to achieve a true sense of family and help all attain eternal life.

OUR CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION

Saint Benedict welcomes the opportunity to participate in the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City’s campaign, One Church, Many Disciples. This campaign will enable the building of a shrine for Blessed Stanley Rother, and will fund shared ministerial needs. Through participating in this campaign, Saint Benedict will raise significant funds toward the needs of our beloved community. We are seeking five-year pledges to achieve the parish campaign goal of $625,000 Saint Benedict will receive 20% of all funds we raise up to the goal, totaling $125,000. Plus, 50% of every dollar raised above the goal will be returned to Saint Benedict.

OUR SHARE OF THE FUNDS

Through the One Church, Many Disciples campaign, we will not only play a significant role in this historic moment in the Church’s history, but we will also be able to support exciting new projects at Saint Benedict. With Saint Benedict’s share of the funds raised in this campaign effort, we will renovate the flooring in the church and construct a new high altar for the sanctuary so the parish liturgies are celebrated in a more beautiful space.

Renovate the Church Flooring

A New High Altar