



Photo by Kathy Gallagher

With ceremonial shovels in hand at last Sunday's sod turning are, from left, fundraising committee chairperson Tom O'Brien; Our Lady of Guadalupe pastor Fr. Greg Bonin; business manager Donna Marcotte; and building committee chairperson Ed Link.

Sod turning launches church expansion

In the current climate of church reductions, closures, and amalgamations, it is a 'good news' story for the community of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, located in central Riverside on Wyandotte Street East at Raymo Road.

A 'sod turning' event took place last Sunday following the 10 a.m. mass.

Recently, the Roman Catholic Diocese of London approved moving forward with a \$2.8 million bid from Windsor's Wincon Construction to proceed with a large parish hall, boasting a full kitchen, meeting rooms, Sunday School room and new washrooms which will be attached to the southwest corner of the existing church.

Parish and community groups such as the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Women's League and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul are enthused and supportive of the project.

As well, the current parking lot will be rebuilt and expanded. Parishioners and Riverside neighbours will soon notice the removal of the nearby multi-car garage.

The existing parish hall, which was built as a temporary church approximately 70 years ago, will serve as Wincon's construction office and then will be demolished when the new facility is completed.

In the local vibrant construction climate, the best bid came in at about 15 per cent higher than anticipated. It is with this fact, that the efforts of the church's fundraising appeal will be renewed and extended.

In his comments prior to the sod turning, Fr. Greg Bonin, the pastor of the newly formed North Central Windsor Catholic Family of Parishes, spoke of the tenet to have faith and to believe in this much needed project to enhance the life of the church and its impact in the Riverside community.

The Family of Parishes includes Our Lady of Guadalupe, Most Precious Blood, St. Theresa, Sts. Cyril & Methodius and the San Juan Diego of Guadalupe Hispanic Community.

Pledge your support

Fundraising activities continue including the opportunity to conveniently pledge your support over an extended period of time.

For inquiries, please contact the Family of Parishes' business manager, Donna Marcotte, at **519-948-4133 ext. 240** (Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

Once final approval of the building permit is in place, the entire project is scheduled to be completed in 10 months.