

# Rebuild. Renew.

A \$10 million capital campaign for  
St. Theresa Point First Nation Catholic Church

A Case for Support  
**2022**



# The Campaign. The Community.

- The community of St. Theresa Point has embarked upon a \$10 million campaign to rebuild the St. Theresa Point First Nation Catholic Church.
- On April 5, 2021—Easter Sunday—an arsonist set fire to the beautiful wooden structure, which was built in 1964. It was completely destroyed.
- The Catholic faith has been central to life in St. Theresa Point since 1925 when Catholicism was first embraced by the community.
- Like the former church, the new building will have capacity for about 500 people.
- Community consultations on the design of the church are underway.
- St. Theresa Point is an Oji-Cree community established in 1901 as Maria Portage. It was the first permanent settlement on Island Lake and is located 465 kilometres northeast of Winnipeg.
- The community's population is about 4,500.

**With your support, the young adults of St. Theresa Point can dream of bringing their own children to the community's church the way their own parents brought them. For a new generation of families, the initiative to rebuild the church is a sign of the community's resilience, optimism, and commitment to deep and enduring faith.**



# The Smudge and the Rosary. The Spirit of Community.

*The tears were not even dry before members of the St. Theresa Point community started thinking about what they needed to do to rebuild the church that had been serving the community since 1964.*

Yes, there was shock and there was grief as the St. Theresa Point First Nation Catholic Church burned to the ground on Easter Sunday 2021, but there was also a resolve and a determination to immediately start planning for the future. And there was also a spirit of forgiveness and compassion for the young man who set the fire as he dealt with severe mental health challenges.

Established in 1901, St. Theresa Point is a community defined by the strong character of its people; collective and individual humility; resilience; and a commitment to foster and celebrate the accomplishments of its members—it's a community that has produced professionals, elite athletes, pilots, and artists.

It is also a community of deep and passionate faith, with members who express their Catholic and Indigenous spiritual traditions in beautiful, harmonious ways. It is not uncommon to see a rosary in a sweat lodge; and before the church burned down, it had hosted drumming and dancing ceremonies.

"I remember when I was away at school and a classmate saw my smudge and my rosary together on my study table. She said: 'You can't have those things together! It's sacrilegious!' I had never heard that word before," says Tanya McDougall, a community member whose own grandfather was simultaneously a Pipe Carrier and Eucharistic Minister. "It was just my way."

For Tanya and many others in St. Theresa Point, it's not one or the other. One doesn't have to choose between Catholicism and Indigenous traditions. In St. Theresa Point, faith is defined by one's personal relationship with God the Creator. The community embraces a culture of respect and discovery as people mark their journeys. There are points of tension and there are points of tremendous synergy as the community flourishes.

While the loss of the church building was a tragedy, the community continues to thrive as people pray together in a small, temporary structure, online, and over the radio. But it's not the same. A new church building will rejuvenate the community as it recovers from its loss. It will be a space to gather in worship. A place to study. A place to connect. A welcoming place. A holy place. A legacy for future generations in St. Theresa Point.



# Our Community; Our Future. Rising From The Ashes.

*"We gathered on that chilly Easter Sunday and watched and wept as our beloved church burned to the ground. It was a place of peace and a place of joy. Since 1964, members of St. Theresa Point have seen our church as a place to pray and express our faith in God, but it has also been a place to connect as a community.*

*As we emerge from the pandemic and dream of a better future for all people everywhere, I am confident that our new church will renew and refresh our community. A building can be destroyed, but faith cannot. We are grateful for your support."*

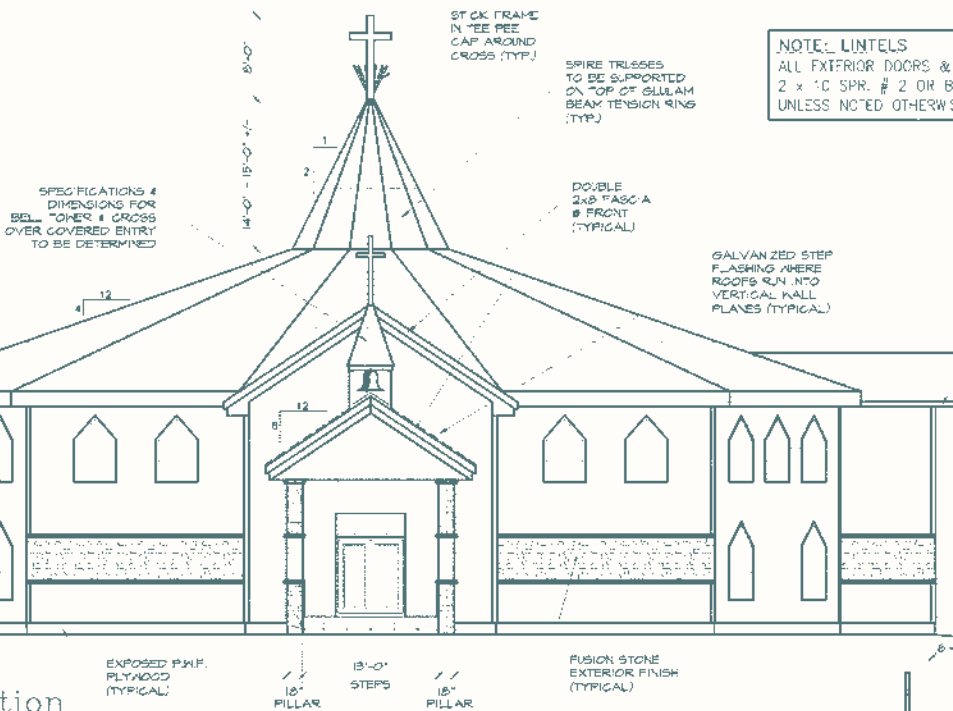
**Stewart McDougall, Executive Director  
St. Theresa Point**

**"Everything that we do  
during our lives is part of  
that church, our church."**

**Marie Wood, Former Chief,  
St Theresa Point First Nation  
(as told to CBC Radio)**





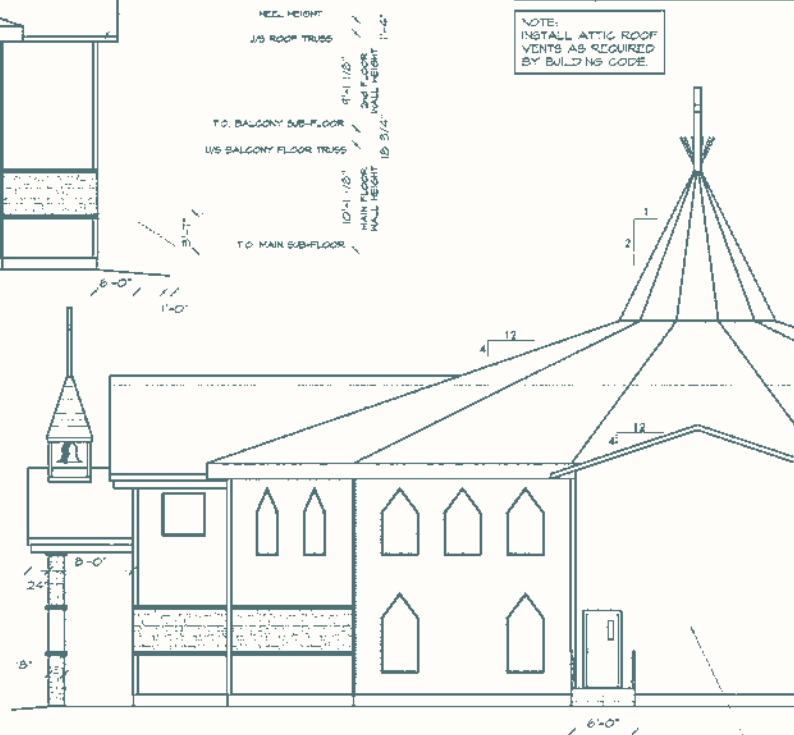


**NOTE: LINTELS**  
ALL EXTERIOR DOORS & WINDOWS TO BE 3-PLY 2 x 10 SPR. # 2 OR BETTER UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE ON PLANS (TYP.)

**NOTE:**  
MECHANICAL & STORAGE ROOMS TO HAVE A ONE HOUR FIRE SEPARATION. ALL WALLS TO BE CLAD WITH 5/8" FIRE RATED DRYWALL ON BOTH SIDES OF WALL, & THE CEILING TO HAVE 2-LAYERS OF 5/8" FIRE GUARD DRYWALL. IF CHIMNEYS OR CHASES BREACH THE CEILING AND EXTEND INTO THE ATTIC SPACE, A FIRE RATED CHASE EXTENDING TO THE UNDERSIDE OF THE ROOF DECK SHALL BE PROVIDED IN THE ATTIC SPACE IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE ONE HOUR FIRE SEPARATION. JANITOR ROOM WITH 5/8" FIRE GUARD DRYWALL ON CEILING & WALLS FOR A 3/4 HOUR FIRE RATINGS.

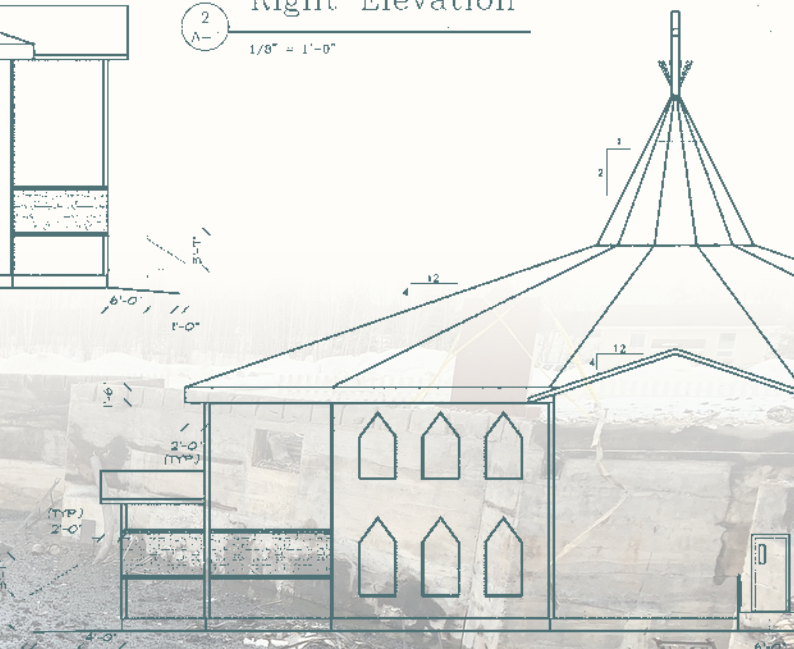
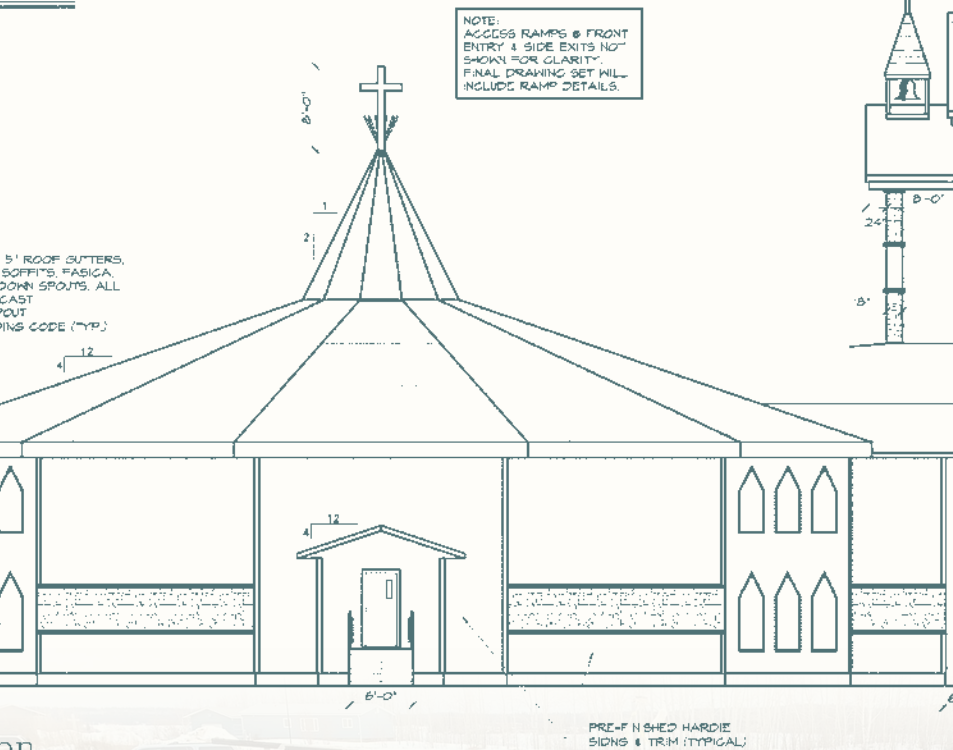
**NOTE:**  
PROVIDE BUILT-UP POSTS IN EXTERIOR & INTERIOR BEARING WALLS @ GIRDER TRUSS/ROOF BEAM JOINT LOADS. POINT LOADS ARE TO BE TRANSFERRED DIRECTLY DOWN TO THE CONCRETE CONCRETE FOOTINGS THROUGH POSTS IN THE WALL & SOULING BLOCK IN THE FLOOR. PLEASE REFER TO ROOF TRUSS MANUFACTURER'S SHOP DRAWINGS & THE ENGINEER'S STRUCTURAL PLANS FOR THESE LOCATIONS (TYP.)

**NOTE:**  
INSTALL ATTIC ROOF VENTS AS REQUIRED BY BUILDING CODE.



Right Elevation

1/8" = 1'-0"



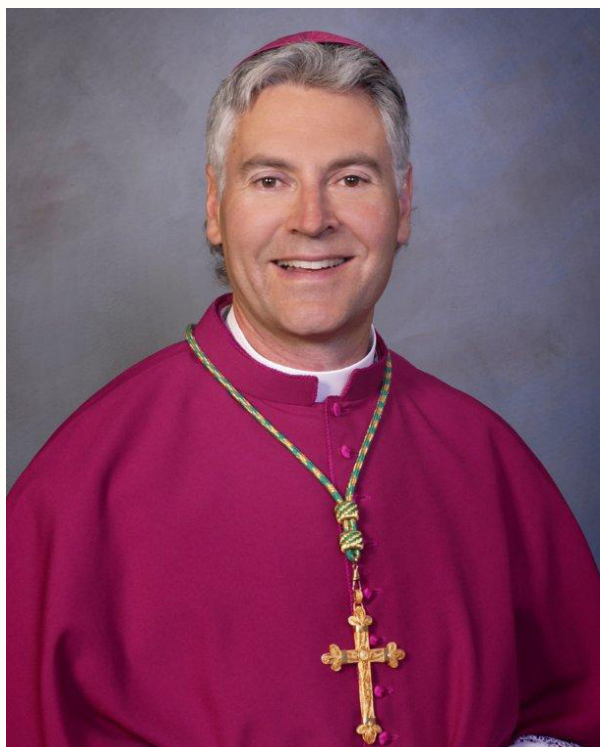
Left Elevation

1/8" = 1'-0"

**NOTE:**  
SLOPE FINISHED GRADE @ MIN. OF 6" FOR THE FIRST 6'-0" AWAY FROM THE FACE OF THE BUILDING AROUND THE ENTIRE PERIMETER. SLOPE @ 2% BEYOND THE 6'-0" IF GRADE AROUND THE PERIMETER OF BUILDING (EXCEPT FOR FRONT ENTRANCES)

HAND RAIL EXTENDED 12" BEYOND EXTERIOR STEPS & RAMPS (TYP. BOTH SIDES)

# From the Archbishop; Seeing God's Blessings in St. Theresa Point.



*"So many significant events happen in the church: funerals, weddings, baptisms, celebrating Christmas and Easter together. The St. Theresa Point church has been a central gathering place and a place where a family's most important moments are shared.*

Losing the building was devastating. The people of St. Theresa Point are very spiritually attentive and they really look for a connection with the Creator, with God. They really feel that the church is a holy place, and have always looked after the church with love, respect, and care in a way that supports the spiritual health of the community. Anyone who came to the St. Theresa Point church felt a sense of connection to God or the Creator.

I am moved and impressed by the way that so many in the community hold dear to their Indigenous cultural practices while embracing the Catholic faith. I think they bring the two traditions together in positive and beautiful ways, with each tradition spiritually strengthened by the relationship.

I see God at work in St. Theresa Point. I see his blessings. And I see a community whose members support each other and who are committed to offering their young people a sense of hope and purpose. Rebuilding the church is a sign of the community's resilience and passion."

**Archbishop Murray Chatlain**  
**The Archdiocese of Keewatin-Le Pas**







**To learn more about the campaign to rebuild the St. Theresa Point First Nation Catholic Church, and to discuss your giving options, please contact:**

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[c.l@globalphilanthropic.ca](mailto:c.l@globalphilanthropic.ca)

**Thank you for your support.**





*This portrait of St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Indigenous American canonized by the Roman Catholic Church, somehow survived the fire at the St. Theresa Point church. The portrait's survival is a sign of the community's resilience and passion to rebuild their church.*