

A Vision for Renewal, Revival, and Community at St. Theresa Parish

Proposal for a Parish Coffee Shop and Gathering Space

Vision presentation and fundraising concept for parish discussion



Concept mock-up of a welcoming parish coffee and gathering space

This is not mainly a coffee project - it is a community-building ministry of hospitality, belonging, and connection.

1. Executive Summary

This proposal recommends that St. Theresa's develop a warm, welcoming parish coffee shop or gathering space that strengthens fellowship, encourages people to remain after Mass, and creates a practical place for connection, hospitality, and parish life.

The goal is not to create a business for its own sake. The deeper goal is to help the church become a stronger relational community - a place where people not only worship, but also stay, meet, support one another, and grow together.

Because Wakaw is a small town with parish families, local residents, and seasonal lake visitors, this kind of space could serve both the church and the wider community. It could become a visible sign that the parish is alive, welcoming, and invested in people.

2. Why This Would Be Good for the Church and Community

Benefits for the Church	Benefits for the Community
Creates a visible culture of hospitality and welcome.	Provides a warm, positive gathering place in a small-town setting.
Encourages parishioners to stay after Mass and build relationships.	Offers local residents and lake visitors a welcoming point of contact with the parish.
Helps newcomers feel less anonymous and more likely to return.	Builds goodwill by showing that the church wants to serve people, not remain closed in on itself.
Reduces isolation among seniors and those living alone.	Creates opportunities for intergenerational community and healthy social connection.
Supports volunteerism, ministry, discipleship, and pastoral care through natural relationship-building.	Can host family-friendly events, cultural gatherings, and simple community outreach moments.

3. How the Space Could Be Used

A parish coffee shop or gathering area could serve far more than casual coffee after Mass. With thoughtful scheduling, it could support multiple ministries and groups throughout the week.

Parish Life	Faith Formation	Outreach & Support
Coffee after Mass	Bible studies	Welcome space for newcomers
Parish social events	Faith-sharing groups	Hospitality for funeral lunches or parish hospitality days
Volunteer appreciation	Youth and young adult gatherings	Support circles and prayer groups
Council or committee meetings	Alpha / catechesis / sacramental prep discussions	Community drop-in conversations with visitors

4. Why This Matters Spiritually and Pastorally

The Church is called not only to worship and teach, but also to welcome, accompany, and build communion. A gathering space gives the parish a practical way to live that mission.

Hospitality is deeply Christian. A warm table, a conversation, a place to sit, and a sense of being known can become the starting point for deeper belonging, trust, healing, and faith.

Many people today come to church, attend Mass, and leave quickly. This kind of space helps the parish become not simply a place people visit, but a community to which they belong.

5. How This Space Could Support Parish Renewal and Revival

A coffee shop can be connected to revival because revival is not only about big emotional events, powerful preaching, or packed adoration nights. *Revival is also about hearts being awakened, relationships being restored, and a church becoming spiritually alive in everyday life.*

A parish coffee shop could support that in several ways.

1. It creates space for encounter

Revival often begins through encounter — with God, with truth, and with other people. A coffee space gives people time to slow down, stay after Mass, talk, ask questions, share burdens, and be known. Some of the most important spiritual moments do not happen in a formal program. They happen in ordinary conversations.

2. It strengthens belonging

People are more open to faith when they feel safe, welcomed, and connected. A church that only gathers people in pews may still feel distant to some. A warm gathering place helps people feel that the Church is a family, not just a service they attend. Belonging can prepare the ground for deeper conversion.

3. It becomes a bridge for the hesitant

Some people are not ready for a Bible study, prayer group, or formal ministry event. But they will come for coffee, food, or conversation. That makes the space a gentle doorway. Revival often needs front doors that feel human and non-threatening.

4. It supports discipleship

Revival is not sustained by inspiration alone. It needs ongoing relationships, encouragement, and formation. A coffee shop space can host Bible studies, Alpha, faith-sharing groups, men's and women's groups, youth conversations, prayer gatherings, and informal mentoring. That means the space can help move people from curiosity to community, and from community to discipleship.

5. It helps faith become relational, not only formal

One sign of revival is when faith begins to spill out of the formal hour and into ordinary life. When people stay, talk about God, pray for each other, encourage each other, and build friendships rooted in Christ, parish life becomes more alive. A gathering space can help make that happen naturally.

6. It gives hospitality a spiritual role

Hospitality is not separate from revival. In Christianity, welcome matters. Table fellowship matters. Making room for people matters. A coffee shop can be a ministry of hospitality where the love of Christ is felt before it is explained.

6. Fundraising Vision: A July 1 Community Event

Because Wakaw is a small town with local residents, a public community board, and seasonal lake visitors on long weekends, July 1 presents a strong opportunity for a visible and welcoming fundraiser.

- Host a Canada Day community lunch in the parish hall.
- Feature homemade Ukrainian food such as perogies, cabbage rolls, sausage, dessert, tea, and coffee.
- Offer both dine-in and takeout so families and lake visitors can participate easily.
- Add a raffle or silent auction using prize donations from local businesses and parish families.
- Use light live music or local performers to create atmosphere without making the event overly complicated.
- Display the coffee shop concept image and a simple explanation of the project so guests understand the long-term vision.

Canada Day Community Lunch at St. Mary's

Homemade Ukrainian food • Dessert and coffee • Raffle • Everyone welcome

In support of a future parish gathering space where people can connect, belong, and grow in faith together.

7. Suggested Message for the Public

A parish coffee shop or gathering space would offer much more than refreshments. It would create a practical and welcoming environment where parish life can deepen beyond the Mass itself. Many people come to church, attend Mass, and then leave without much opportunity for conversation, connection, or relationship-building. A dedicated gathering space helps address that by encouraging people to stay, meet one another, and experience a stronger sense of belonging within the parish. It can improve hospitality for newcomers, create more opportunities for fellowship among parishioners, and provide a natural meeting place for Bible studies, faith-sharing groups, youth ministry, sacramental preparation, Alpha, parish committees, and outreach efforts. It can also help bridge generations by giving seniors, families, youth, and adults a shared place to gather in an informal and welcoming setting. For the wider community, such a space can become a sign of welcome and a positive point of contact between the church and the town. In a small community like Wakaw, a warm gathering place communicates that the parish is active, open, relational, and invested in the life of the community. In this sense, the space is not merely an amenity; it is a ministry of hospitality, fellowship, and belonging that can strengthen both the parish and its witness in the wider community.

8. Practical Advantages of Starting Small

This project does not need to begin as a large, expensive renovation. It can begin modestly through staged fundraising, donated furnishings, and a clear vision.

A first phase could simply create a comfortable hospitality space with seating, coffee service, and basic decor. If the parish sees strong use and support, the space can gradually develop further.

Starting small reduces risk, respects parish resources, and allows the community to grow into the vision together.

9. Suggested Next Steps

1. Present the concept to parish leadership or parish council for discussion.

2. Gather feedback from parishioners regarding interest, concerns, and possible volunteer support.
3. Identify a realistic first fundraising event, with July 1 as a strong candidate.
4. Create a small planning team to explore costs, furniture needs, food service options, and room usage.
5. Refine the concept based on parish priorities and the physical realities of the church hall or parish space.

10. Closing Statement

This proposal is about more than coffee. **It is about helping St. Theresa's become an even stronger place of welcome, fellowship, renewal, revival, and belonging.** A warm gathering space can strengthen parish life, support faith groups and studies, serve the wider Wakaw community, and help people experience the church not simply as a building they enter, but as a living community they are part of. In that sense, this is not merely a room project; it is a relational ministry project.

A welcoming parish gathering space can do more than bring people together; it can draw people into deeper participation in the life and mission of the church. **When a parish creates an environment that feels alive, relational, and full of possibility, people are often more ready to step forward, share their gifts, and take greater ownership in parish life.** Some may volunteer in hospitality, others may lead Bible studies, faith groups, or classes, and others may simply become more present, engaged, and connected.

In addition to supporting faith-based groups and parish ministries, the space could also host healthy recreational and family-friendly events such as trivia nights, board game nights, coffee socials, youth hangouts, youth groups, and intergenerational gatherings. These kinds of events may seem simple, but they help people form friendships, build trust, and feel at home in the church community. They also create a gentle and welcoming entry point for families, newcomers, and those who may be hesitant about more formal church involvement.

Ultimately, this kind of space could help foster not only fellowship and belonging, **but also greater service, leadership, and shared responsibility for the mission of the parish.** It could help create the kind of warm, relational culture in which deeper faith can grow, community can flourish, and revival can be nurtured, making the life of the church more visible, more inviting, and more alive.