

We  
Invite You



To Make This  
Possible

# Rebuilding Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples

- 1913: Sacred Heart Parish created to welcome and support the many needs of the increasing number of nationalities arriving with Edmonton's rapid population growth.
- October 27, 1991: to the joy of many, Archbishop Joseph McNeil declared Sacred Heart the first, national, First Nations, Métis, and Inuit Catholic Church. On that historic day, *Lucienne Meeks, First Nation Elder & Pastoral Associate said: "This is a dream come true. Using our own way of prayer as First Nations people, to be able to worship in freedom and acceptance of who we are and taking our rightful place with Christianity as native Catholics."*
- August 30, 2020: a fire in the sanctuary area caused significant damage.
- 2021: the Archdiocese and the Parish take the opportunity to rebuild and profile the national Indigenous Catholic Parish.
- The next 100 years: plans are now unfolding to continue journeying together to build a loving and welcoming Christian community of inclusivity, equality and wellness - welcoming all as brothers and sisters in the Lord in a Catholic context of the culture and spirituality of the First Peoples of Canada.



## Planning for the Future

- We acknowledge that Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples is, first and foremost a church, a place of worship of historical importance. It is in a location where the poorest and most vulnerable in society live.
- We have gathered ideas from Indigenous teachings, symbols, ceremonies, Catholic scriptures, and customs that reflect the coming together of both traditions.
- In collaboration with elders, Indigenous leaders, artists, and architects, planning has begun to design a renewed church building combining Indigenous and Catholic elements integral to our spiritual understanding.
- At present, we are restoring the physical structure, modernizing the supporting framework for the spiritual environment.
- The interior redesign is intended to incorporate Aboriginal cultures and spiritualities. It includes a medicine wheel, a redesigned circular altar, replacement of three damaged stained-glass windows, and repairing the Indigenous representation of the Way of the Cross. The integration of Indigenous elements will support liturgies and sacramental celebrations that truly reflect the culture of those gathered together in Indigenous Catholic community.
- There is a new chapel, a place for focusing on the Creator's gift to repair and rebuild brokenness and a path to restoring ourselves, and, the past, with an eye to future generations.

**To complete the *Rebuilding of Sacred Heart  
Church of the First Peoples,***

**we need to raise \$2,000,000.00**

**We invite you to become one of our partners!**

Zoom Conferencing is available for those  
who would like more information

Sacred Heart has been serving the inner city since 1913. Partner with us in the rebirth of this Parish, so that it may serve for another 100 years, welcoming and spiritually nourishing the next seven generations. Help us to:

- stand and walk with Indigenous Peoples;
- heal, repair and rebuild the broken legacy of the past;
- journey with youth and young families, as they adjust to urban realities;
- empower youth and young families for a brighter future;
- offer liturgical services integrating Indigenous culture, spirituality and ceremonies with Catholic traditions;
- offer courses to protect and promote Indigenous languages, particularly Cree and Dene;
- promote the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission;
- offer tours related to the history, culture, symbols and ceremonies of the Indigenous peoples to students and teachers;
- support the materially and spiritually poor, the homeless, and the marginalized in their varied needs;
- advocate for those who have no voice in the public domain;
- serve the needs of the larger immigrant community;
- sponsor refugees;
- be inclusive: welcome everyone as equal participants in the Circle of Life.

**For more information contact**

**Fr. Susai Jesu at (587) 335-2015**

**[Susai.JesuOMI@caedm.ca](mailto:Susai.JesuOMI@caedm.ca)**

Detailed information package  
available upon request

Zoom conferencing optional



# Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples

## MONTHLY GIVING

(choose one of the following methods)

☐ please charge my credit card

\$\_\_\_\_\_monthly.

OR

☐ I am enclosing a void cheque. Please debit my bank account

\$\_\_\_\_\_monthly.

## ONE-TIME DONATION

☐ \$\_\_\_\_\_

(Please make cheque payable to Sacred Heart)

ON-LINE DONATION: [www.sacredpeoples.com/rebuild](http://www.sacredpeoples.com/rebuild)

E-TRANSFER DONATION: [rebuildsacredheart@caedm.ca](mailto:rebuildsacredheart@caedm.ca)

Thank you for supporting the Rebuild of Sacred Heart Parish of the First Peoples

Name :(please print)\_\_\_\_\_

Address:\_\_\_\_\_

City:\_\_\_\_\_ Province:\_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code : \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Visa ☐ MC ☐ AMEX

Date: M\_\_\_/D\_\_\_/20\_\_\_ Expiry Date: M\_\_\_/Y\_\_\_ CVC: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_