



The ORGAN for Blessed Trinity

Photo of the actual pipes of our new organ. They will be located in the upper panel, east of the Icon of Christ (above the ambo)

The Narrative...

How we got from there to here

In 2016, Blessed Trinity was fortunate to receive the gift of a small pipe organ from Carroll College. After discussion with the Pastoral Council, Strategic Planning Team and Parish Finance Council, all decided to enthusiastically accept the gift. Many parishioners contributed financially to the cost of moving it from Helena to our church. We knew at the time that it had limitations and would need some future repair, but we were willing to live with that for the moment so that our community could experience the enhancement of our congregational song that a pipe organ would bring. We also knew that it would have to be moved during the process of our building renovations.

With the addition of the organ—an instrument that indeed does “breathe” with the singers—our already robust assembly song has become stronger. Especially during the festive seasons of Christmas and Easter we have been blessed with the traditional sounds that ring in the memories of many of our parishioners. One parishioner has shared that the sound of the organ has transformed the entire atmosphere of our worship space to a new level of reverence and awe. Another parishioner made this comment, “I want you to know how much having beautiful organ music adds to the whole worship experience for me. It makes it so easy to sing praises to my Lord.”

When it was time to discuss and plan the move of the organ, the technician made us aware of some serious problems that we would face in its moving and reconstruction. It would add considerable cost to the project. But it would be a foolish endeavor to move it without dealing with all of the repair needs.

In the process of formulating some serious decisions about the current organ, we were made aware of another instrument. It is available through Roland (Rollie) Rutz, a Minnesota organ builder who has done considerable work throughout Montana, beginning with the construction and placement of the organ at Saint Mary Catholic Community, Helena. Both S. Mary Jo and Fr. Ed worked with Rollie at that time and have remained professional colleagues. Rollie offered our parish an instrument that he had maintained since its original installation in a Minnesota church about 30 years ago. Its cost is much less than what all the repairs and moving expenses for our existing organ would be. It is also a bit larger, built to be a church organ. (Our current organ is considered to be a “house” or “practice” organ.) It has none of the complications of our current organ, has already been re-designed to fit in our space and has been updated to support modern technology. It will be a beautiful addition to our renovated worship space.

A Reflection from a parishioner

How I got from there to here

“When discussions about an organ began several years ago, I had doubts as to why we needed one. Our church had a grand piano that filled our worship space with beautiful sound. What more could an organ do for our worship?”

Then we were gifted with the organ that had served the chapel at Carroll College for many years. For the cost of moving, it was a wonderful chance to add some diversity to our music.

It wasn't until I heard the organ played during Mass the first time that I began to understand the significance of this instrument in our liturgy. Its sound and presence suddenly filled my mind with images of Gothic arches and stained glass windows. It was an experience to hear old hymns as composers meant them to be played to lead the congregation in worship. The organ's expression of sound is through the use of air just as we are instruments that use air to express our sound. Likewise, the Creator used that same air to breathe life into us as do we and this organ use air to breathe life into our worship.

But now I know why the organ has been established by the Vatican as the primary instrument of the liturgy. In part, because it is a wind instrument just as the congregation is a wind instrument lifting its combined voice in worship to the one living God. The organ assists the congregation to elevate its liturgical celebration through its collective voice, sound and beauty, and to deepen our worship and expression of faith.”

The Latest

Next steps

The new organ will be arriving in the next few weeks and will be temporarily located in the place of the present organ. The present organ will be removed and the trade in will be a part of financing the new instrument. Planned church construction will provide a more permanent placement.

A Gift to Honor and Remember

Several significant gifts have already been given toward the organ (providing almost one half of the total cost of the organ). Total estimated cost is \$69,000. Additional gifts in memory of a loved one are, of course, welcome—a beautiful way to both honor and remember the ones you love.



The console of our “new” organ
This will be on a movable platform

“Because the assembly gathers in the presence of God to celebrate his saving deeds, liturgy’s climate is one of awe, mystery, wonder, reverence, thanksgiving and praise.”

Environment and Art in Catholic Worship

Musical instruments, especially the pipe organ, have long added to the beauty and prayerfulness of Catholic worship.

Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture and Worship



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