



**ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE**  
**OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS/MEDIA**  
4000 Saint Joseph Place NW  
Albuquerque, NM 87120-1714

## **PRESS RELEASE**

From: Celine B. Radigan, Director  
O: 505. 831.8180, F: 505.831.8248, Email [cradigan@archdiosf.org](mailto:cradigan@archdiosf.org)

### **Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan to Dedicate Archdiocese's Newest Church St. Jude Thaddeus 5712 Paradise Blvd., NW, Albuquerque, NM 87114 Friday, October 28, 2011, 6:00 P.M.**

*Our Lord has blessed the Archdiocese of Santa Fe with an abundance of faith. To accommodate our fast growing 400 year old Roman Catholic community, I will have the unique privilege of dedicating two megachurches within six weeks. Our faith is alive and bountiful. I invite all to join us in this historical celebration.* Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan



ALBUQUERQUE, NM –Wednesday, October 26, 2011-- IMMEDIATE RELEASE—  
Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan will dedicate the Archdiocese of Santa Fe's newest church, St. Jude Thaddeus, during the Mass of Dedication on Friday, October 28, 2011 at 6:00 P.M. The new church is located at 5712 Paradise Blvd., NW in Albuquerque, NM. Pastor, Rev. John C. Daniel welcomes all to celebrate this joyous event. A complimentary barbeque dinner will follow the dedication. This will be the

Archdiocese's second megachurch<sup>1</sup> to be dedicated within the last six weeks. To accommodate one of the fastest-growing Catholic communities on Albuquerque's Westside, the newest church is 21,756 sq. ft. church. It is built in a fan shape design and will seat 1,350 people in the main church and small chapel. Groundbreaking for the new church, which replaces the former church, took place on October 28, 2010. The former 8,000 sq. ft. church accommodated 600.

For more information call St. Jude Thaddeus Parish Office 505.898.0826

<sup>1</sup> Church of the Incarnation, 2309 Monterey Rd NE, Rio Rancho was dedicated by Archbishop Sheehan on September 23, 2011.



## ***Background:***

Known as the patron saint of desperate cases and lost causes, Jesus' twelfth apostle, St. Jude Thaddeus, is often called upon to intercede when difficult circumstances present themselves. It's only fitting that St. Jude Thaddeus in Albuquerque – one of the fastest growing parishes in the State of New Mexico – has finally received an answer to desperate pleas and countless prayers for a bigger church.

St. Jude Thaddeus Parish originally opened the existing church in 1980 with 600 registered families. Today, there are 2,550 registered families with an average of 20 new families registering each month. In the last ten years alone, there has been a 63% increase in the number of registered families.

As growth on Albuquerque's Westside has continued to skyrocket, St. Jude and its pastor, Fr. John Daniel, kept pace with the growth by adding additional weekend Masses, expanding the religious education program, assisting 434 families with utility bills and other services, allowing more Baptisms during daily Masses and also after Mass, helping numerous organizations create new chapters at St. Jude including the Gabriel Project and Catholic Daughters of the Americas, LifeTeen, and Vacation Bible School.

Subsequently to date, there have been significant increases in Confirmations, First Holy Communions, weddings and other Sacraments such as Baptisms (which increased by nearly 50%), compared to 2007 and earlier.

Two months after Fr. John was assigned to St. Jude in August 2007, Archbishop Sheehan asked him to lead the effort to build a new church. Fr. John began developing a master plan that was approved by the archdiocese in April 2008. Mullen Heller Architects were hired in December 2009 and input from parishioners was collected and considered when developing the schematic design. Formal fundraising commenced with a capital campaign called "Rebuild My Church." To date, 827 families have pledged almost \$1.4 million towards construction of the new church which will be matched by the archdiocese. However, the work is not completely over, as \$55,892 still needs to be raised to meet the church's goal of \$1.5 million.---END

