



Merry Christmas & THANK YOU!

This Christmas, St. Therese's Catholic Camp is offering a big thank you to all of the people and organizations that make the camp what it is today! Over the past year, the camp has seen some major donations as well as spectacular improvements! This would all be impossible without your help, so we just wanted to say "thanks," and catch you up on what's been going on this year at St. Therese's Catholic Camp!

Improvements:

Chalet- Formerly known as the nursery, this building had a dividing wall splitting the space into two rooms. Under the leadership of parents from **American Heritage Girls**, the divider was taken down, and the walls and ceiling were repaired. **Big Bob's Flooring** donated and installed new carpet. A small kitchenette, without plumbing, was added so that this facility can be rented to small groups not requiring the main lodge meeting space. It now comfortably holds about 20 people.



Duplex Modifications- Two of the six duplex rooms have been switched from 1 queen bed and 3 small bunks, to 2 sets of bunks having full size twin mattresses. This allows for all 4 campers in that room to have a comfortable mattress and more space.



Sleeping Cabins- All Sleeping cabins have new high efficiency Rinnai natural gas heaters and new wall-to-wall carpet. The heaters were funded by a **Rasmuson Foundation grant**, and the carpet was donated and installed by **Big Bob's Flooring**.

Military Tent- For those wishing for a more rustic camping experience, we have installed a large military style tent on the upper hill. This 20' X 30' tent has a heavy vinyl floor, and is available on a year around basis. It was donated by **Raven Electric**, along with 3 additional tents.

The Chapel- This building used to be the camp store & coffee shop. We removed all the counters and equipment to make it our Chapel. It seats about 35, and the large window behind the Altar faces Pioneer Peak. It has a great heater and prayer time in the chapel is available by contacting Rudy in advance.

Stations of the Cross Trail- This trail was completed by **Sean Carey as an Eagle Scout project**. The trail is about 1,500 feet long, and has a gradual grade that is suitable for almost everyone. Several benches are available along the trail for you to rest or contemplate. If you're looking for a quiet place to experience The Stations, give Rudy a call at (907)232-2066 and head on out.

IMPROVEMENTS CONT.

The Main Lodge and Kitchen- This building has seen the largest changes since we purchased the camp. With funding from the **Rasmuson Foundation**, we were able to purchase and install a new high-efficiency-boiler. This not only provides the heat for the building, but also provides the hot water for the kitchen and restrooms. Along with gutting and remodeling the restrooms in this building, we have installed dishwasher, convection oven, gas range, 3-hole sink, dishware counter, and added a 28-quart commercial mixer to the kitchen.



Since the kitchen has zero dry storage area, *we are currently seeking grant and private funding for construction of a dry storage addition.* Most of the funding for the kitchen improvements came from **Knights of Columbus** councils from across Alaska, and **Catholic Daughters of the Americas**.



Gaga Pit- Gaga is a form dodge ball, and it is a favorite pastime for campers young and old alike. It is played in an octagon shaped enclosure that is 36" high and 24' in diameter. The pit was built by the **Knights of Columbus** in 2014. It sat on a dirt pad which turned into a mud pit during the wet season. A new industrial grade rubber floor was installed several months ago, compliments of **Ron & Annette Alleva with Grubstake Auction**. Camp staff and parents are happy to have this in place.

Handicap Access- Most areas of the camp are already handicap accessible, but we would like to make some improvements. Through a generous grant from the **Reitman Foundation**, we have funding to add ramps to 2 upper cabins, 1 lower duplex cabin, make major improvements to the bath house, and both the upper and lower Lodge access points. We will start on these changes in the Spring when the ground thaws.

Bath House- After the first of the year, we will start on a bath house renovation that includes new fiberglass wall covering, and a one-piece epoxy floor in both the men's and women's areas. This is possible through a generous grant from the **Rasmuson Foundation**, and additional funding from **Catholic Daughters of the Americas** and other friends of St. Therese's Camp.

As we continue to improve St. Therese's, our **greatest emphasis** is still in paying off the purchase price of the camp by October 2018. However, to make every camper's experience great, we ask that you take a look at our needs and see if you might have something on the list! Much of the "stuff" that we could use to help operate the camp is probably sitting in a garage, shed, or cabin, waiting for a better use.

Needs: We could use a **golf cart or side by side ATV** for campers with disabilities or injuries. A **four-wheeler with a dump cart** would help with grounds keeping, collecting firewood, and trail maintenance. A **small tractor with a bucket in front and blade on the rear** for road and trail repair. For the lake, we can use more **kayaks, canoes, row boats, paddle boats, and a small boat with small motor** would greatly assist in moving docks and anchors. If you have something you think we might be able to use, give Rudy a call at the camp, (907) 232-2066.

Our winter retreat for middle schoolers, **Glory Bound**, will be going on December 28th-30th, 2016. This is our second year running Glory Bound and we reached max capacity with registrations!

Registration for Summer 2017 will open January 1st, 2017! To see how much fun we had during Summer 2016 head over to www.stthereseak.com/media for all the photos and videos of each week!



ONCE AGAIN, WE WANT TO SAY THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU HAVE DONE AND CONTINUE TO DO FOR ST. THERESE'S!

Website: www.stthereseak.com, Instagram: @sttheresecatholiccamp,
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