

Growing Our Traditions

“And Jesus said: Everyone who comes to me and listens to my words and acts on them is like the man who, when he built a house, dug deep, and laid the foundations on rock; when the river was in flood it could not shake it; it was so well built.”
Luke 6:47-48

Since the beginning of St. Michael's in 1992, that *small group of 180 strangers* and their fellow parishioners listened to the Lord's word and built our traditions on solid ground. It is time for the *current 7,500* at St. Michael's to carry on the Growing of our Traditions.

The previous three messages (posted on St. Michael's Web site under Growing our Traditions) have:

- Discussed our History
- Defined our Needs
- Defined what is possible on our property

The goal of these messages was to thoroughly update you, our parishioners, on the work done by the Needs Assessment committee and by the Building Steering Committee. The Building committee is comprised of Fr. Dan, our pastor, Bonnie Campbell (chair), Andy Ferguson (vice-chair, administration & ministries), Dave Tindall and Bill Berry (Finance & Fund Raising), Bob Yondola and Joe McGreal (Communication, Marketing & Events), Dave Nemetz and Wally Turnage (construction), Mike Ballato (legal), and Karen Bowens (minutes).

Now, that the 'Update Phase' has been completed, we move to another phase of communication. You talk; we listen.

We will ask you what **you** value at St. Michael's. Then, together, we outline the benefits of building on our solid foundation through living and supporting our values.

In order to find out what your families and you value, village meetings will be held multiple times later this month. Please see the invitation on the reverse side for all the exciting details.

Please review the Building Plan. Then, can you imagine:

- On-site, overnight retreats offering secluded space for meetings, private prayers, outdoor reflection/memorial gardens, prayer paths, etc. ?
- CRHP, Caritas, Bereavement, etc. happening at the same time ?
- Updated technology in rooms allowing enhanced audio-video and internet capabilities ?

- Class rooms that are so well-designed that our children **want** to come to religious education and maybe even bring their friends with them ?
- Being able to have a comfortable, private space for counseling our families in need ?
- Upon the death of a loved one, ministering holistically to the family members – private rooms, counseling, prayer services, vigils, liturgical celebrations, final resting place in the columbarium – all on-site ? Completely ministering to all needs for our parishioners before, during and after the time of loss ?
- Outside park-like area bustling with life as our entire parish gathers together for multiple types of activities - picnics, sports, playgrounds, our own version of 'Dogwood Dell' presentations in our amphitheater, prayer services by the lake ? The list of activities is endless!
- A special space reserved solely for our youth – encouraging them to gather not just for religious education classes but at other times as well ? Why? Because St. Michael's is their 'other' home.
- A special space where only comfortable chairs are allowed ? Can you see this place when Fr. Dan gathers his Bible Study groups together ? A place designed for a more informal, relaxing environment – encouraging discussions, faith sharing, and being receptive to the Spirit moving among us.
- A REAL conference room ? Adequate storage?
- A large meeting space with a stage so presentations and productions can be experienced? Encouraging our growing theater ministry? How about productions by our youth in Christian music, dance, and theater?
- A bridal party room for weddings?

Your fellow parishioners need YOU to be a part of the future and to dream the dream of what St. Michael's can be as we continue to grow.

We look forward to your sharing your vision of the future. **PLEASE** attend one of the village meetings described on the reverse side.

Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure overflowing will be poured into your lap.

Luke 6:38

V.I.P. Invitation

We are busting at the seams !

In a nutshell: our facility was built for 6,000 parishioners. In 17 years, we have grown to over 7,500!
We are likely to reach over 9,000 in the next five years !

What is the impact of the growth ?

Ministries have inadequate space. In the past five years, the number of children increased dramatically while the per cent of children participating in religious education decreased.

More meetings are cancelled, scaled back, rescheduled, or held off-site.

Bottom Line: inadequate space negatively impacts ministries' ability to serve the parish family and thereby realize the vision of our being Christ to each other.

What to do ?

Fr. Dan officially approved the recommendation to move forward with a Building Plan.

But we can not move forward without hearing from our parishioners.

Now is the time to come together as a village and decide what to do and when to do it.

Your input is needed before proceeding !

PLEASE help design the future !

Get involved NOW! Come to a meeting. Learn more about the space needs. Weigh what is important.

Wait until you see the Master Plan, preliminary floor plans and artist renderings from our architects !

Look at the options under consideration. And, then decide.

You are cordially invited to attend one of six village meetings at church.

Wednesday, October 14th 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM or 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Thursday, October 15th 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM or 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM

** Sunday, October 25th 12:30 AM – 2:00 PM or 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

** Come meet and greet our architects, John Bock and Canova Peterson, at these meetings.

Special note: Children are welcome! For the two Sunday meetings, there will be special sessions for them (same time, different room) to participate and share their vision for St. Michael's. Look for their artwork representing the expanded facility!

Pssst: Did we mention the Drawing?

Everyone who attends a meeting will be eligible to win a **very special prize** !!!

Questions: Contact us at Traditions@Saint-Mikes.org