

STEPPING STONES

History of St. Joseph Master Plan

The Master's Plan is a three phase project that began in 1996 when Fr. Mark Wood organized the Parish Core Team, an advisory body charged with the planning and implementation of construction projects to meet the demands of our growing parish.



- **1872-2002** -By the mid 90's, our growing parish and school, located on Lafayette St., had outgrown our land-locked facilities surrounded by historic homes. In 1995, with no room for expansion, the Parish Council, Finance Council and School Board ratified the Long Range Planning committee's recommendation to relocate.
- **1996** - Fr. Mark Wood charged the Core Team to find suitable land to relocate our church and school.
- **1997** --18.57 acres of pastureland were purchased on Starr Drive (on land originally purchased in 1844 by Fr. John Corry to settle a Catholic presence in NWA, now St. Joseph Parish).
- **1997-2000** –The original plan was to build a Church on Starr Drive and leave the School on Lafayette Street, establishing a dual campus. Due diligence proved this plan was not feasible. Unable to financially budget the operation of two campuses, finance the multi-million dollar church mortgage, and provide meeting space on Starr Drive for parish groups after weekend Masses, it was determined that we needed to move as one. In 1999, Fr. John Antony and the Core Team designed our multipurpose Chapel Center and Education Facility-**Phase I**- that was in our price range to meet the needs of the entire parish.
- **2000-2006** –Father Paul Worm and the Core Team continued work to complete the **Phase I** project. We moved into our multi-purpose facility in 2002 bringing us back to our roots on the original pre-1872 Catholic property. Father Paul and the team began work on **Phase II** to plan our next project and the best locations for future construction.
- **2008** -After retiring the **Phase I** debt, with the parish's continued growth, our building was unable to accommodate the demands for meeting space for all of our groups and classes. Fr. Bradley Barber brought Core Team together to continue work on **Phase II**.
- **2009-12** -Focus groups, parish statistics, budgets and the original plan were considered. Needs were identified and four master site plans were presented to the parish. The **Phase II** DeBriyn Family Activity Center and classroom/meeting space addition, which included rooms/spaces postponed during **Phase I** due to budget constraints, opened in February 2012.
- **2010** -Our vision of a church as originally presented has always been on the table. During **Phase II** planning, Fr. John Antony asked the Core Team to envision architectural plans and research locations for a future church. In addition to the 1997 design, four parish architects were consulted and snapshots of possible designs for a traditional style, 1000+ seats, east-west orientation Church were reviewed.
- **2014-15** -Having paid off our **Phase II** building debt in 2013, Fr. Shaun Wesley reorganized the Core Team to plan for **Phase III** – a freestanding Church, to include liturgical space and parish offices. Freeing those spaces in our current facility will provide additional room for the future ministry needs of the school and the church.
- **2016** –Father Jason Tyler and the Core Team continued to study the best location for **Phase III** -a new church.