

## STEPPING STONES A Sacred Place

The design, location, and the atmosphere of the church building affect not only how we worship, but also what we believe. Ultimately, what we believe affects how we choose to live our lives. The church's architecture, location, altar, statuary, and the presence of Jesus in the tabernacle all work together to raise our minds towards heavenly things.



We currently have a Chapel Center that serves as our church. In the history of our Parish and in our Stepping Stones columns, you have read how growth made it necessary to move all of our facilities from the landlocked location on Lafayette to Starr Drive. After careful study and being mindful of our fiscal responsibility, we had to prioritize and establish plan our Master Plan to be completed in three phases. Phase I—a multi-purpose building—was designed to function as a place for liturgical services, a school, and meeting space for ministries and groups. This facility includes one large space with collapsible walls that serves as a Chapel Center, cafeteria, reception area, classroom/meeting space, and provides additional seating for Christmas, Easter, First Communion, Confirmation, and Masses that exceed 565 people.\*

Canon Law defines the church building as "a sacred building destined for divine worship" (canon 214). The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that "visible churches are not simply gathering places but signify and make visible the Church living in this place, the dwelling of God with men reconciled and united in Christ" (#1180).

Having retired the debt for the first two phases, we have arrived at Phase III—a free-standing church. It will be a permanent sacred space and location that will house the presence of God Himself, a sacred place where, as God's people, we can come together to give Him glory. Step one in accomplishing this and realizing a dream that began 20 years ago is acquiring the adjacent land to the north of our parking lot.

Stay tuned for coming plans and ways that you can be a part of helping our parish realize a dream and build a sacred place.

\*Seating capacity in Chapel Center is 565 with additional seating of 344, when collapsible wall to cafeteria is open. When opening collapsible wall behind pews on the side of the church where organ is located, there are an extra 90 seats. Mass counts at some Sunday Masses and special liturgies exceed total capacity of 999 seats.