

Capital Campaign



UPDATE

BUILDING
FAITH
FAMILY
FUTURE

Q & A

What's going on?

From a short list Archdiocese-approved general contractors, we have chosen Paradigm Construction of Houston as our general contractor. Founded in 2013, the company's three principals bring the combined experience of 46 church-construction projects. Paradigm carries a \$6 million insurance bond and has a solid reputation for meeting budget and deadline.

The contractors are also known to work well with our architects, the recently merged firm of Ziegler Cooper Architects and Hall Barnum Lucchesi Architects. The Building Committee has been working with Steve Lucchesi, who is now the principal-in-charge of the Worship, Education and Community Studio of Ziegler Cooper Architects. The firm has completed many church projects, notably the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston and the 2,500-seat expansion of First Baptist Church at Center and Fairmont in Pasadena.

Where are we?

We are three weeks away from Commitment Weekend, March 12-13. If you are a registered parishioner, in about two weeks you will receive a brochure in the mail explaining in full the commitment sought. (More below.) If you don't receive the brochure in the mail, you will be able to pick one up at the church.

What's the matter with the church facilities we have?

As we have noted, in three-plus years, we have spent more than \$400,000 in repairs. We have deferred maintenance on more than \$600,000 in repairs. We squeezed nearly 50 years of use from facilities built with materials and technology meant to last 25-30 years. You can't say we weren't frugal.

But it's like owning a car: You can keep replacing worn out parts, but you eventually reach a point where you've spent more than it is worth. If you're still hanging onto it, you then reach a point where you can't get parts anymore. That's where we are.

Do we really need a 1,000-seat sanctuary? As a parish community, aren't we shrinking in size?

While the number of families receiving (or using) envelopes has declined over the past 10 years, the reality is, we are growing, as evidenced by Faith Formation enrollment, which has nearly doubled over the past two years. The students alone would nearly fill a 1,000-seat sanctuary. Our current sanctuary was originally built for 600, without a place for the choirs. Over time, we removed a section of pews for a music platform. We now seat about 450.

While St. Hyacinth is the only Catholic Church in Deer Park, our parish boundaries extend to high-growth areas of Pasadena and La Porte. The fact is, many Catholics attend church where they feel welcomed, comfortable and are spiritually and socially nourished, rather than attend by geographic boundaries. More are finding a home here.

If the sanctuary is not large enough, why not just add more Masses?

While having multiple Masses is certainly a convenience, many in the Church are coming to recognize that

the practice can be detrimental to an active, unified parish life – and a unified parish life helps keep faith alive and growing in all of us. A church with four weekend Masses is like having a church with four congregations. (And until a few weeks ago, we had five.) The more of us under one roof, the more likely we are to bond as a parish family.

By Canon Law, the pastor is limited to how many Masses he can celebrate in a day. Our parish isn't likely to receive a second priest anytime soon. It's growing more difficult to find priests who can cover the Masses our pastor can't. While the priest shortage in the U.S. is not news, it's especially a problem in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston – the fastest-growing diocese in the U.S. in terms of Catholic population. As a result, more and more shepherds have larger flocks.

Why don't we just expand?

Some fixes would require that the facilities be brought up to current building codes before beginning any repairs. There is no direction to expand without reorienting the altar and doing that is tantamount to tearing down and starting over. The cost of expansion is as much if not more than building a new sanctuary.

The bottom line: The property belongs to the Archdiocese, which has determined that we've reached the point that further repairs to the facilities unadvised. It's time to rebuild.

Will we keep our stain-glass windows of the Holy Spirit and the Good Shepherd?

Yes. As they are envisioned, they will be placed on south and north walls of the new sanctuary. They are unique artistically and for their construction: They are made from faceted glass, a rarity these days. So that they might last forever, they will be placed between panes of glass to protect them from the elements. This won't obstruct the light coming through them. Our other faceted-glass windows will also be part of the new sanctuary.

The new drawings are different than the earlier ones. What changed?

After receiving positive feedback from parishioners about the "statement" a new church would make for the community, the architect was inspired to redesign a much more prominent façade and steeple facing Center Street.



Will we keep the altar? The crucifix behind the altar?

We will keep the crucifix. If we don't reuse the altar, it will be donated to another sanctuary. In that event, the reliquary embedded in the altar will be moved into a new one. (For those of you who may remember, this is not the original altar. The original was marble.)

Where will our Chapel of Perpetual Adoration be located?

The Adoration Chapel will be built into the Day Chapel, just off the altar – a chapel within a chapel. The Day Chapel will seat about 100, serve for daily Mass and for Sunday Mass overflow when necessary.

Where will the choirs be located?

The choirs will be located in a loft, overlooking the sanctuary, with special attention called to acoustics and sound technology.

Will the sanctuary be energy-efficient?

The sanctuary will be built to the latest energy codes. As designed, the structure will capture much natural lighting through UV-coated windows. As planned, all electric lighting will be by LED. The architect and contractor will work together with HVAC engineers whose specialty is to create the most energy-efficient sanctuary possible.

Will the new church be handicapped accessible?

Yes, the sanctuary will not only be ADA compliant, but also make it easier for parishioners in wheelchairs to enjoy and participate in Mass.

Will there be a covered pick-up, drop-off portico?

Yes, the current covered drop-off portico facing P Street will remain. There will be another drop-off portico on the other side of the church entrance.

What will happen to the plaque of names in the foyer (narthex)?

They will remain, as that wall will become the entrance to Faith Formation building. (Those names list contributors to the church's bell, which will also remain.)

Why do we need a new rectory?

The new sanctuary will be located directly in front of Guyot Hall. The location of the current rectory is future parking. The plan is to construct a new rectory toward the northeast corner of the property, where the pavilion and barbecue pit are currently located. Besides being the priest's home, it's also his study, his chapel and his office where he is expected to receive guests. The guest bedrooms in the current rectory are small and spartan – little more than cells in a monastery – and not particularly welcoming to visiting priests.

Building for the future also means anticipating that someday, we will have more than one priest in residence. The trend around the archdiocese is that the larger parishes with active, vibrant communities are receiving more clergy.

What will happen to the trees in front of the rectory?

The oak trees in front of the rectory may have to be sacrificed, but will be saved if possible. However, new trees would be planted in green-space "islands" throughout the parking area.

Why do we need a new pavilion?

The old pavilion is leaking on a slab that is slowly subsiding. The new pavilion, directly behind Guyot Hall, would serve as a recreational space but would also house a new kitchen facility, much-needed storage space and our St. Vincent de Paul office – finally giving SVdP room to see clients in a space more conducive to privacy and dignity.

How big is the new rectory and pavilion?

We don't know. What we have seen so far are only renditions in the Master Plan. The architects' focus right now is in the new sanctuary, because that was the No. 1 priority chosen by 80 percent of the parishioners who responded to our 2014 Needs Assessment.



OK. We need a new church. How are we going to pay for it?

This is what we will be asking of you: to commit 3% of your annual household income, in a three-year commitment, apart from your regular giving if possible. Some will be able to commit more. Some less. We can't do it without you. We all must participate, to the extent that we can, because we can't continue to allow the burden to be borne by the few. To give from our hearts rather than our surplus means that our giving should challenge us.

I'm on a fixed income. I'm already giving to the church. I'd like to be a part of this but I can't afford to give more.

We have a duty to our families, and we doubt God would ask us to impoverish ourselves. For retirees and other folks on a fixed income who are already giving to the church, thank you for the sacrifices you've already made. We simply ask that you designate

a portion of your giving to the building fund.

A \$10 million Master Plan? What if we don't raise that amount?

Let's say, for example, we only raise \$5 million in the Capital Campaign. It is possible that the Archdiocese would match our funds in a low-interest, long-term loan – if our archbishop, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, believes we have made a good-faith effort.

The good news is, we carry no debt, and should reflect on us favorably.

Let's say, for example, we only raise \$2.5 million – and let's say the Archdiocese agreed to match that amount – we would adjust our plans according to our budget, working with the architect and contractor. At some point in the future, we would raise the rest.

Think of the Master Plan as a 50-year plan for the next 100 years of growth. It's hard to think in those terms, but think of the great cathedrals of Europe, which took generations to build. The Catholic Church is here to stay.

It makes sense to raise as much as we possibly can, because costs will increase and we'll be pushing that burden on our children and grandchildren.

Where will we have Mass while the new sanctuary is being built?

Mass will be in the old sanctuary until demolition. Then Mass will be in Guyot Hall until the new sanctuary is built.