

Holy Family Catholic Church & Academy

Vision for Our Future

Rooted in Tradition

Before the 1920s, many Catholics in "the Park" had to travel to worship in Hopkins. In 1924, a new Catholic church began to be organized and two years later St. Louis Park's first Catholic parish, Holy Family, opened the little white chapel's doors. Subsequent years of faith and sacrifice saw the building of a sturdy red brick school, as well as Fr. Wilkins' crowning jewel of the beautiful English Gothic church in which we worship today.

Now as we look forward to our approaching centennial, Holy Family continues a fruitful legacy of joyful Catholic life through 40+ robust parish groups and activities as well as our bustling school: *a classical academy committed to academic excellence, character development, and the spiritual formation of the next generation.*

Holy Family now embarks on the next phase of this legacy in serving God and His people by exploring the continuation of a comprehensive parish and school plan which began in 2007. Our plan's first phase was implemented in 2012 with a new playground and green space adjacent to the school which was designed to prepare the way for a new multi-purpose auditorium/gymnasium/theater, classrooms, and parishioner meeting space.

Current Challenges

Holy Family Catholic Church and Academy's buildings provide a setting for serving Christ and passing on to future generations the beliefs, values, and teachings of our faith. Parish leadership has identified three primary challenges with our current facilities:

- 1) **Inadequate room for church meetings and gatherings:** It is important for our facilities to be able to host the many meetings, faith formation and enrichment activities, and social events which form the life of our vibrant community. Our current buildings do not have adequate room for the rich variety of our parish activities and organizations as well as for larger group events. We currently possess only two small basement meeting rooms alongside Fr. Moorman Hall.
- 2) **Lack of classroom space:** Times have changed since Holy Family began in 1924 and even since the school's reopening in 2001. Today, more than ever, a Catholic school's future is highly dependent on Pre-K and Kindergarten classes to serve as "feeders" to drive enrollment in upper grades. Parents are seeking strong early childhood education programs. We have responded to this shift by moving from a two-day Pre-K and three-day Kindergarten to a five-day Pre-K for 3 and 4-year olds and five-day Kindergarten based on Montessori principles. This initiative has been well received and demand is high, but requires additional classroom space.
- 3) **Lack of functionality for student activities:** For years our school has been piecing together physical education with no available gym space on site. In the cold winter months recreation has often been cancelled or students are forced to use the crowded cafeteria. This is unacceptable to parents and has become a barrier to entry for potential students.

Through Our Vision, Catholic Values Come Alive

Our parish is committed to the highest standard of worship, as well as education rooted in Catholic teaching and tradition. Ensuring this tradition continues and thrives requires Holy Family to set forth a vision for the future. A new Parish Life Center will solve Holy Family's facility challenges and assist with future growth.

A new Parish Life Center would connect to the current school building and consist of the following:

Auditorium/ Gymnasium/Theater

–Estimated Cost: \$5 million

An additional wing on each side for parish meeting rooms and student classrooms. The classrooms would include dedicated space for art, music, and science with proper lighting, acoustics and equipment as well as space for our early childhood education facilities.

–Estimated Cost: \$5 million per wing, totaling \$10 million

Though this new addition would be attached to Holy Family Academy, it will also play a major role in our parish's life by providing the following:

- Additional parish meeting rooms
- Larger space for banquets and lectures than currently available
- Rain option for special outdoor events such as Fall Festival
- Enhanced space for drama productions (such as by the students of *Holy Family Home Educators*)
- Youth group facilities
- Parish library

Estimated Total Cost for Parish Life Center: \$15 million

Potential Partnership

Holy Family Academy and Chesterton Academy, a Catholic High School currently located in Edina, are considering a collaboration with regard to facilities. This would not be a merger, but instead a partnership to provide students with excellent educational facilities by sharing responsibility for this project. Holy Family has regularly hosted Chesterton students for daily Mass over the years and there is a fine tradition of mutual respect and cooperation.

The leadership of Chesterton Academy is also currently engaged in future planning. They have indicated interest in exploring the option of a shared campus in which Holy Family would lease part of our new facility to Chesterton. While remaining distinct educational institutions, both share a common vision of the importance of Catholic education to shape the minds and hearts of future generations. Holy Family and Chesterton have often worked together in the past and this partnership may open the door for generosity from outside our parish. We see it as a great cause for all who seek to support Catholic classical education in the Twin Cities.

Continuing the Tradition

Sometimes a generation is called to discern and act upon a matter which has impact well beyond its moment in time. Previous generations left us a rich legacy in Holy Family's present facilities which still serve us so many years later. The foresight and sacrifices of our predecessors have blessed us. You are now being asked to consider your own responsibility to build upon a solid foundation of faith that will serve for generations to come.