About St. Albert the Great Catholic Community

Our Parish: Celebrating our 60th anniversary in 2019, Saint Albert the Great Parish community has grown from a sleepy plot of farmland in 1959 into one of the largest and most vibrant parishes in the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland. Geographically situated in the heart of North Royalton, our 11,000+ parishioners strive to be the center of worship and praise of God, the teaching of our faith, the compassionate service to the least of our neighbors. We hear the call to be holy, kind, and giving. Together we respond with heart!

Our School: As the largest grade school in North Royalton and the Diocese of Cleveland, St. Albert the Great School’s mission is to partner with families to educate each child to know, believe, and live the Catholic faith and to continue lifelong learning. St. Albert the Great is not only a National Blue Ribbon Award winner, but has been ranked a “top workplace” for the past five years. Special places are built of and by special people. St. Albert the Great School is where we do what’s good for kids in the name of Christ.

Our Vision 20/20: In 2017, we announced “Vision 20/20 +ONE: Holy, Kind, Giving!” This vision is the call and invitation for each of us and all of us to add one new step on the journey to holiness, kindness, and generosity. Our parishioners and parish ministries hope and work to be a welcoming and inviting presence of Christ in the world.

By the Numbers: Holy, Kind, Giving!

- Established in
- 4,000 households and 11,400 parishioners
- 2,500 worshipers at Mass every weekend
- 1,000 people on campus daily
- 925 enrolled students, including 125 preschoolers
- 600 participants in great adventure Bible Study
- Service Day 2018 – over 2,000 participants and 200 sites
- Over 120 employees, 100 ministry leaders, and a $2.2 million annual offertory in 2018
Celebrating 60 Years of Catholic Faith and Ministry

After 60 years of service to the Catholic community of North Royalton, we are proud that the parish has no debt, we have significant endowment funds for the school, we have reserve investments for our parish future, our school enrollment has increased to capacity for the first time since 1999, and the subsidy to our school from the parish has dropped to 23% of our annual offertory collections in 2018. We stand now at a critical moment looking toward the future of our parish considering the needs of our facilities, property, growing ministries, and increasing services to the community.

Limited Ability to Carry Out Our Mission

As our newly appointed pastor in 2009, Fr. Edward Estok turned to the parishioners of this great parish to discern the needs, desires, and hopes of this community for the next generation. With the leadership of a newly constituted parish pastoral council, the ministries of the parish began to expand and a new vibrancy took over. With the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the generosity of parishioners, the Diocesan Rooted in Faith campaign provided for the restoration and renovation of the interior of the church. Expanding ministries and the aging facilities and property led to a 2016 appointment of a special master plan committee to review our achievements, assess our needs, identify any problems, and map out our future.

After several years of planning and discussion by the pastoral, finance, and education councils, and after 15 months of research, review, and study, the committee identified three major challenges and goals:

1. **Growing Ministry, Limiting Space** We simply have outgrown and worn out our facilities for the people, the life, and the ministries of this great parish. With only five meeting spaces and over 100 ministries, we can no longer accommodate the over 1,000 people entering our campus daily for ministry, learning, and celebration. Our hope is to grow our parish as a welcoming center of worship, compassion, and learning, but our buildings and grounds are limiting our capacity to grow.

2. **Safe and Welcoming Traffic and Parking** With the expansion of our church, parish, and school activities, safe vehicle and pedestrian traffic and accessible parking have become a daily dilemma. School traffic drop off and pick up (six times every day), 32 school buses twice a day, two daily Masses, weekly funerals, and regular business at the parish offices creates a tangled mess of traffic for pedestrians, especially seniors, handicapped persons, young families and school children. Our traffic and parking circumstances are so limiting and complicated that many have simply stopped attending activities at St. Albert.

3. **All are Welcome, but not Able.** While we have been blessed with a beautiful parish campus, a large number of parking spaces, and beautiful buildings, we are challenged to make our church, parish, and school accessible to the growing community of persons with disabilities. Of the 550 parking spaces, only 70 of them are handicap accessible. The renovated convent building that serves as our parish offices and priest residence has no fewer than eight steps both prohibiting handicapped parishioners from entering or a disabled priest from serving.
Establishing A Master Plan to Better Serve our Community
Due to the complexity of the problems, the committee chose to hire an engineering and planning firm, the Environmental Design Group to develop a creative and life-giving plan for our future. They reviewed our long list of needed capital improvements in our buildings and grounds as well as our space and parking needs and challenges and helped us to identify solutions. After considering seven different options, the committee determined that the construction of a Parish Life Center is the best possible solution for our space problems now and in the future. The Environmental Design Group also developed a site plan that divides our parking into separate zones for buses and cars, provides more accessible parking around the church, widens access roads to create a new traffic pattern, and updates our athletic fields with leveling and lighting. Taken together, the Master Plan solves today’s immediate space and traffic flow problems while also looking ahead to tomorrow’s parish community.

Building Faith: A New Generation.
What We Hope to Do:

Construct a New Parish Life Center & New Parish Offices
The new Parish Life Center and parish offices will allow St. Albert the Great to welcome visitors and parishioners into much needed, more accessible, and appropriate space in our parish buildings and grounds.
With a capacity to seat up to 400-500 people, the Parish Life Center will include a presentation auditorium, large group faith formation space, light athletics gym, celebration center with a full service kitchen, small meeting rooms (flexible for faith formation), a lounge area for teens, coffee shop, and flexible space and furniture. The new welcoming, security enhanced, and handicap friendly parish office will include a larger main office to accommodate the work of parish staff, public and accessible restrooms for staff and visitors, additional private office space, a conference room for up to 30 people, and smaller conference space for liturgical planning, funeral/wedding planning, and counseling. [Estimated Cost of $6 Million]

Provide Welcoming, Accessible, and Safe Parking & Traffic Design
Improved parking and redesigned traffic flow will make St. Albert the Great more welcoming to parishioners and visitors and more safe and secure for our children.
We will create an easier and more efficient entry when arriving to the property, increase accessible parking, and improve the traffic flow on Wallings, Ridge, and Royalwood Roads. Additionally, the parish with complete the leveling and lighting of our athletic fields to create higher quality and safer outdoor spaces. [Estimated Cost of $3.5 Million]

Construct a New Priest Residence
A new priest residence has been planned for several years and is to be constructed on parish property adjacent to the church building, providing living space separated from ministry offices, handicap accessibility for disabled clergy, convenient and attached parking for the residents, and privacy space surrounding the house. [Estimated Cost of $300,000]

Exploring a Potential $10 Million Campaign
Before moving forward with the Master Plan, St. Albert the Great is exploring the possibility of launching a capital campaign to raise as much as $10 million.
Your Role

In order to meet the needs of our vibrant and growing parish, we are preparing to launch a comprehensive campaign with a goal of raising $10 million. This would be our first independent campaign in more than 27 years. We have retained CCS, a fundraising and consulting firm, to conduct a planning study to gather the thoughts and advice of our parish community. CCS has over 70 years of experience in helping Catholic institutions in northeast Ohio and around the country meet their goals.

A vital step in their work will be to gather input, advice, and feedback from St. Albert the Great’s key stakeholders on the timing, scope, leadership, and messaging of a potential campaign. Your candid advice will be critical in shaping our plan of action.

Thank you for sharing your time and thoughts as part of this planning process.