

CORE TEAM

STEPPING STONES

THE MASTER'S PLAN UNFOLDS

St. Joseph Church has been an important part of the history of the Catholic Church in Northwest Arkansas from its beginnings as a log chapel (near the current location) before the Civil War to the longtime church in the heart of Fayetteville on Lafayette St. Our city, state and the whole world, for that matter, have benefited from the spiritual guidance of the 36 priests who have served here and from the school, which has been the source of a quality education for many students since 1916.

By the early 1990's it was clear that some major changes would have to be made at St. Joseph. The congregation and the school enrollment had grown and expansions had taken place. There was an ongoing problem with parking. The site on Lafayette was fairly land-locked. So in 1995, the pastor then, Fr. Mark Wood, selected a Core Team which began looking into the best direction for St. Joseph Church and School. With input from parishioners, much prayer, and the dedication of a committed, professional team, a plan was presented in 1998 to buy land and build a new church and parish hall. In 1999, while Fr. John Antony was pastor and after further study, it was determined that it would not be feasible or fiscally responsible to operate two campuses. A new proposal from the Core Team was for a worship center, parish hall, school and offices on one location. The land on Starr Drive, which has room for expansion of our facilities, was purchased through a generous donation from a parishioner. The current building was designed by Hight-Jackson Associates and built by Nabholz Construction Co. Construction began in June 2001, and the facility was completed in the summer of 2002.

With the cooperation and support of the parish, the building price tag of \$5.2 ml was paid off through a pledge drive and the sale of the former church, school and offices. The original capital campaign raised \$43,000 over the goal of \$2ml. An additional debt pay-off pledge drive was also conducted, and the debt was paid in full in 2007.

It is evident through the previous Core Team timeline of nearly 10 years that careful consideration is always given when planning for the growth of our parish, meeting the needs of the congregation, school and community, and obligating our parishioners to a loan payment. As the current Core Team makes plans for expanding the Starr Dr. facility and eventually building the long-awaited free-standing church, the total support, commitment and help of 100% of St. Joseph members is, not only desirable, but a must.

Please pray the Master's Plan Prayer everyday for the Holy Spirit's direction for all of us as we move forward with the proposed Activity Center/Classrooms and the Capital Campaign to fund it.

MASTER'S PLAN PRAYER

Father, you are the Maker and Lord of all creation, and you guide the lives of each of us at St. Joseph's. As you continue to reveal your Master Plan for our parish, help us to know and follow your will. Keep us mindful that our most urgent mission is to share Christ with others, and that our building offers a vehicle to accomplish this mission. Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do in our lives. Amen.

Contact the parish website at sjfay.com for Core Team updates and with your questions.

