



STATEMENT OF NEED

This year's celebration of Pentecost coincided with our parish celebrating a hugely significant milestone: the centennial of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church. It's a place imagined and created by faithful, determined Catholic Christians, and a place in which our faith community continues to gather – all these decades later – to celebrate Pentecost, Easter and Christmas; the baptisms of new believers; the marriages of those committing themselves to each other before the Lord; the funeral liturgies of those who've grown old with us and those taken from us much too soon; as well as so many other moments – significant and mundane – revolving around our weekly Lord's Day celebrations of the Eucharist.

What we honor as part of the centennial and what we continue to celebrate in our ongoing worship in our church is the firm foundation established by our ancestors: a firm foundation of faith. Holy Spirit Parish was established upon that foundation two years ago. It's a foundation that has served us remarkably well in terms of a stable structure of concrete and brick. It's also a foundation upon which our new parish can imagine new possibilities, as did those founding ancestors, and make our own contribution in building upon that firm foundation of faith.

For several years, even before the unification of St. Stanislaus and Newman parishes in 2015, there were conversations about an addition to the church to enhance the quality of parish life beyond our celebration of Mass. Likewise, one of the most significant needs identified in the yearlong unification process was a "Parish Center" that would provide additional space and necessary improvements for bringing together parish offices and programs and, ultimately, to enhance the vibrancy of parish life. There also was the awareness that integrating all parish efforts, including campus ministry, at one location would encourage greater awareness and appreciation of the overall picture of all that's happening in our community. Those initial priorities were the impetus for six months of discussion and planning among parish leaders, staff and volunteers, along with a design consultant, which is culminating with *Building Upon a Firm Foundation*.

This project covers a wide-range of parish facilities and programs. Fittingly, and maybe most significantly, it includes improvements and enhancements to our church in its centennial year. St. Stanislaus Kostka Church has undergone two major renovations in its 100 years, the last nearly

30 years ago. While there will be no significant modification of the church's interior, plans do call for a fresh coat of paint; more modern and efficient electrical, heating and air-conditioning systems; more efficient lighting; and handicapped accessibility to the sanctuary. Another major component is the church's first permanent, intentional baptismal font to welcome infants and adults, a worthy place to celebrate the most important sacrament on every Christian's faith journey. This is not an incidental feature. The U.S. Bishops, in their detailed instruction on church environment, state, "The rites of baptism, the first of the sacraments of initiation, require a prominent place for celebration." Because of the original building's sturdy construction, as well as attentive maintenance over the years, there is no need for significant work on the church's infrastructure, inside or out. The estimated cost of church improvements is \$1.9 million.

Enhancements to worship also are central to Holy Spirit's Parish Center, the most extensive part of *Building Upon a Firm Foundation*. Constructed adjacent to the church's north wall, the Parish Center will include a carport offering a weather-protected area for drop-off and pick-up, with easy and safe access to the church. A central feature of the new facility will be the Gathering Space, which will be what the name implies. A possibly helpful way to imagine the Gathering Space is as a hub or roundabout as we find on highways. It will lead us into various parts of the facility, but also guide us toward distinct means of celebrating our faith and developing our community. The 1,597-square-foot Gathering Space will provide a readily accessible and comfortable place for various sales, sign-up and informational displays. In the past, these were confined to tight spaces in the various entranceways, which can also be quite cold and windy. It's in the Gathering Space that we'll greet visitors and talk with one another before going into Mass. Bible study and faith-sharing groups will gather in furnished alcoves. College students will find a welcoming space in which to study and relax. This space also will be a dignified and comfortable location for Funeral Vigils. Adjacent to the Gathering Space will be a library where all parishioners and visitors can peruse a diverse selection of faith-related materials, and take time to read and reflect.

The Gathering Space, or hub, will guide people toward a bright, sunny Multi-Purpose Hall that will accommodate a variety of parish gatherings. One of the challenges over the years has been a convenient, accessible place for things such as after-Mass receptions, a space that invites people to "stop by" without having intentionally to go out of their way, for example, to Kostka Hall. The Multi-Purpose Hall will accommodate events such as the Breakfast Café and Spirit Lunch Club, meetings of parish organizations, funeral luncheons, Student Suppers for college students, the SpiritFest chicken dinner, and special parish and community programs and meetings. This hall of nearly 3,000 square feet will accommodate 200 people. There will be a 475-square-foot kitchen, larger than the current kitchens in Kostka Hall or the Newman Center, with proper ventilation and updated facilities. There will be access to the Multi-Purpose Hall from the Gathering Space and the main, east church entrance. With many events moving to this new space, Kostka Hall will increasingly be used for Youth Ministry, the Religious Education Program and Boy Scouts, a need that is exacerbated since the school, modified to house Pacelli Catholic School's Early Childhood Center, is no longer as well-suited for those programs. However, Kostka Hall also will remain available for other meetings and programs.

Another major component of the \$3.5 million Parish Center is the centralization of all parish staff and offices in one facility. Currently some staff have offices at the Newman Center and others in the St. Stans rectory. The new facility, with direct access from the parking lot and the Gathering Space, will allow the pastor and all staff to work in one modern suite of offices, without the existing duplication of office equipment, not to mention the inefficiency of time spent commuting between the two sites. A consolidation of offices encourages greater collaboration among our parish staff, which was a significant recommendation of the unification process as participants recognized the considerable benefits of the pastor and staff members working from one easily accessible office setting. The plan calls for eight offices ranging in size from 100 square feet to 245 square feet. While the rectory has functioned as a parish office for several decades, it has not been a perfect office arrangement. The building was constructed, after all, in 1922 as a residence for the pastor. This was at a time when parishes did not have professional staff, other than a part-time secretary. As the parish staff grew so did the need for offices, and our pastors increasingly found themselves sharing their “home” with several other people and activities. It remains a workable, but imperfect facility in that access to people with limited mobility is difficult. In addition, various rooms transformed into offices offer little privacy, which is important in pastoral care and finance situations. Indeed, the rectory/office currently has only one office space where confidential conversations can occur. Once the new office suite is complete, the project recommendation is to re-locate or remove the rectory and to create additional and needed parking on that land, with an estimated cost of \$164,300. The pastor will continue to reside in a house on Prentice Street owned by the parish.

The engagement of parishioners of all ages has been a constant, central consideration in the development of *Building Upon a Firm Foundation*. The project will result in easier and safer access for our older parishioners and those with limited mobility, a more clearly dedicated space for our youth, expanded and more easily accessible places for meetings and celebrations for our entire community, including Catholic college students. In terms of those students, the intention of the project is that everything currently happening at the Newman Center will occur in the Parish Center. While the Newman Center has provided an excellent location and wonderful facilities for outreach to Catholic students for more than 40 years, and especially since a major expansion and renovation in 1994, the new Parish Center affords a comparable location, especially with increased student traffic upon completion of the new university Science Building and with further encroachment of parking around the Newman Center. The new facility will be a prominent and welcoming presence for our college community, with spaces they will find inviting and comfortable. Once the new building is complete, the intention is to sell the Newman Center, most likely to the University, which has shown considerable interest in the facility in the past. The property will be independently appraised and any sale carefully negotiated, with proceeds remaining with the parish.

These are the central components of a project that leads us to pursue a \$5.4 million capital campaign. As we know, the Church is more than a building, it is a community of individuals and families committed to the gospel call of discipleship. We live in a time when our culture increasingly confronts us with diverse, enticing and sometimes complicated alternatives, and so

we need as a Catholic community to prepare ourselves to most clearly, honestly and effectively engage our existing parishioners, as well as those who we hope will help our parish and the larger Church, not just endure, but to thrive as we move further into this 21st century. *Building Upon a Firm Foundation* fulfills our parish Vision Statement of welcoming all believers and seekers, engaging college students, reaching out to those who have left the Church and those who have not discovered us yet, encouraging one another in sharing of ourselves and our resources, and living a Gospel response in all aspects of our lives. We strive for the same passion and foresight as those ancestors who built the church in which we worship each Lord's Day, and to realize a greater fulfillment of our mission as "Disciples called to worship, sent to serve."