

One In the Spirit



*"For those who are led by the Spirit of God
are children of God" - Romans 8:14*



**Our Plans To
Build a New Parish Life Center**

*Holy Ghost Catholic Church
Opelousas, Louisiana*

Introduction

Holy Ghost Catholic Church is a vibrant community that dates back to 1920. For over 91 years, our church has been ministering to the needs of our community. And while facilities and faces have changed over the years, one thing remains the same... our commitment to Christ, to one another, and to the betterment of our community.

Our church today is an active community comprised of over 2,100 households. Led by a dedicated pastor and strong corps of lay leaders and volunteers, there is an increasing number of ways that people of all ages can participate in the spiritual, educational, social and service ministries of our church.

Yet, despite our strong heritage of activity and accomplishment, some significant challenges still remain.

Our Needs

Our church has been blessed with ministries and a Religious Education program that are flourishing, yet our aging facilities are currently being used at and beyond their capacity, which adversely impacts our ability to adequately serve our growing parish even today. Our “old school” building which we use for all our classrooms, Religious Education offices and large meeting spaces is simply worn out. To meet these challenges and provide for our faith family into the future, we desperately need to address these issues while focusing on what our most pressing needs are at present time, namely a fully functioning large parish hall, a commercial kitchen, better meeting and classroom spaces, and additional storage space.

A need for large meeting spaces and a commercial kitchen

We have a strong history of fellowship and social gatherings and see this as a vital link in bringing our families together outside of liturgy. However, we lack large, flexible meeting and fellowship spaces as well as a commercial kitchen to better serve our faith community.

- The “school cafeteria” is our largest space and has served us well, but it is not a “parish hall.” It only comfortably seats 150, and because of its size and low ceilings, we are limited in how it can be set up. Furthermore, the acoustics are poor which makes it a very difficult space in which to hear.
- The kitchen in the cafeteria is also a problem. Built to serve a grade school lunchroom, it is very small and outdated. And since it also lacks the large commercial appliances needed for large-scale food preparation as well as adequate space for volunteers to work safely within it, our current kitchen is inadequate for serving anything but smaller events or small community dinners.
- Our main meeting space for large groups is the library in the school. This room typically accommodates up to 80 people, but the room is long and narrow for groups of this size not to mention hard to heat and cool.



A need for additional classroom spaces

We are also severely limited in classroom space to teach our youth. We have been blessed with a great number of families seeking to worship and form their children in the Catholic faith, but we are constantly challenged to find satisfactory spaces in which to teach them.

- Our existing Religious Education classes are held in the old school rooms which have outdated electrical systems and the original single-pane windows, making them very hard to heat or cool. They also lack a fire suppression system which poses safety issues for our children and teachers. Furthermore, they are not wired for the advances in technology that have occurred over the years. In short, these rooms do not provide the best learning environment and are not conducive to the type of dynamic teaching that we'd ideally like to see and have for our youth.
- In addition, our student population is consistent or larger in the lower grades, meaning that we will have a steady wave of students moving through our formation programs and our classrooms in the coming years. Therefore, our need for additional classroom space won't diminish; in fact, the need could become even greater than it is now.
- A need for more storage space

Finally, we are also in dire need of storage space. We currently utilize all corners of the campus and every available nook and cranny, but we still are drastically short of storage space. Plus, because supplies are so scattered, it is very inconvenient and inefficient for our volunteers and staff not to have needed supplies readily available for the various meetings and ministries taking place.

Our Needs

*God calls us to care
for and cultivate
all that He has
given us...not to
be complacent, but
rather to constantly
strive to be better, to
build on and improve
what we have...
always trying to
realize our God-given
potential.*



Our Plans

*Just as our forefathers
and mothers sacrificed
to make our church
better, we are called to
do likewise for those
who will follow.*

As a part of our Parish's master planning, it was determined that to address all the needs of the current school, including the outdated wiring and HVAC system, the old windows, a leaky roof, and the less-than-ideal floor plan, it would cost more to "fix" the building than to build a new facility that would actually serve us better. So, we plan to remove the 'old school' building and replace it with a new Parish Life Center.

The entire Parish Life Center will be protected by a state-of-the-art fire detection system and will be wired for the latest in technology. The center will have an energy-efficient heating and cooling system as well as energy-efficient lighting. Further, we will incorporate as many green building principles as possible into the design.

A new Fellowship Wing

Included in the new Parish Life Center will be a Fellowship Wing consisting of two halls, commercial kitchens, BBQ/Cracklin area, storage and more. This essential addition to our campus will provide needed social, recreational, and fellowship space and will allow the numerous parish, ministerial and educational activities and events the space they need to serve the current and future growth of the community. Additionally, this space will allow concurrent parish activities to be held and provide greater flexibility in scheduling events.

- The main, large parish hall will seat up to 600 people and offer flexible setups, including the option to divide the space into two medium halls seating 300 each. An additional small hall to accommodate 100 people is also planned for the center.
- Two commercial kitchens are planned to allow for serving two events at the same time or for accommodating more helpers at events like the Creole Festival. The kitchen will have commercial appliances, pantries and spacious food prep areas to accommodate serving large groups. Further, a BBQ/Cracklin area is also planned off the kitchen to provide even more options for fellowship.



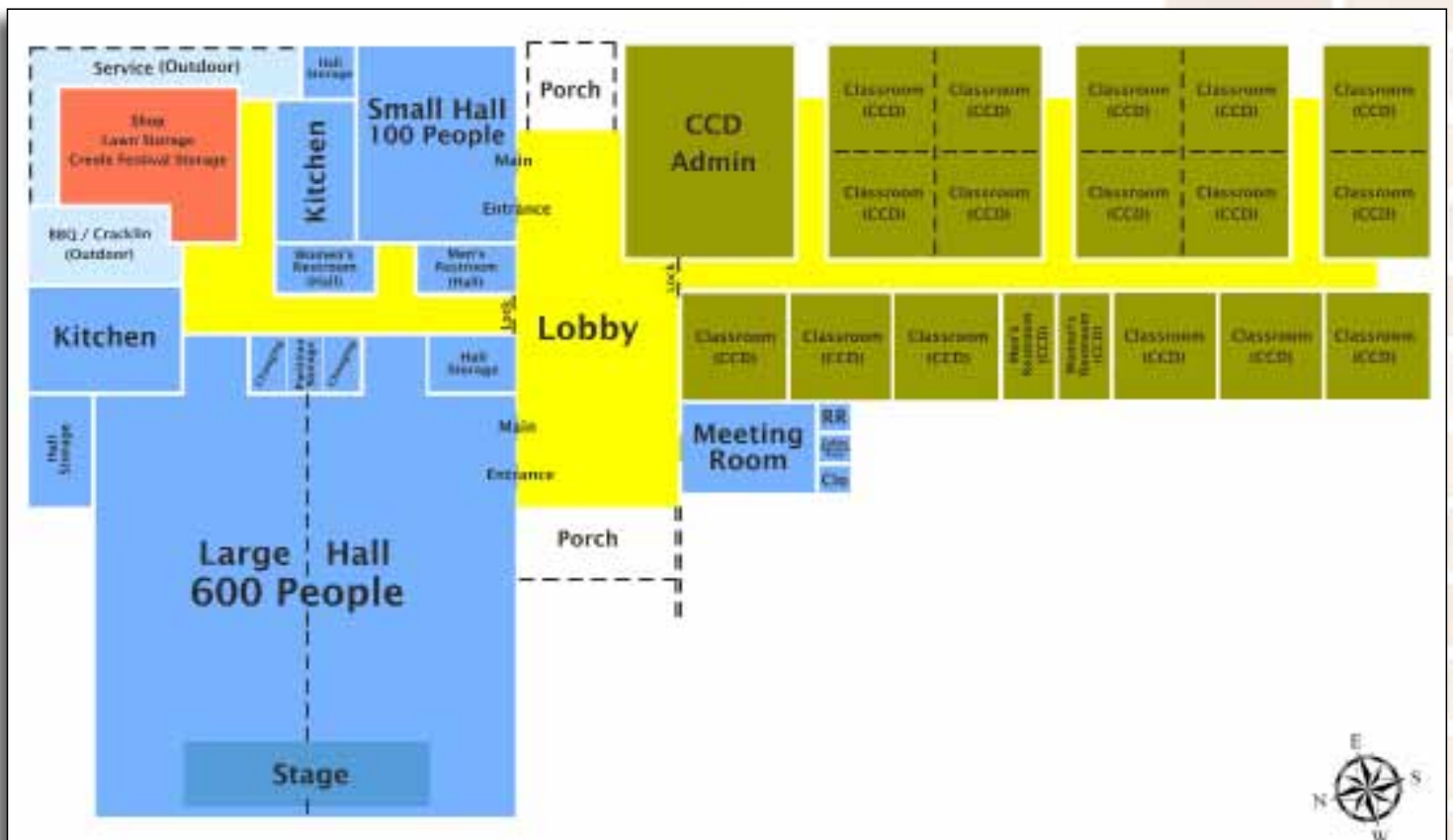
Our Plans

- A large lobby has been designed to greet people as they enter the center to serve as a greeting area or an area of fellowship in itself.
- Ample storage is also planned for kitchens, both halls and the adult meeting room, as well as a sizable storage area for the Creole Festival and Church at large.
- Finally, there will be large handicapped accessible restrooms within the center to serve all those who use the space.

A new Education Wing

In addition to the Fellowship Wing of the Parish Life Center, a wing will also be dedicated to education. This wing will primarily serve our youth through Religious Education classes, but could also be used for adult education classes, sacramental formation, ministry meetings, or however else the space could be used to glorify God!

- Sixteen new classrooms are planned that will be designed with flexibility in mind, allowing them to be arranged several different ways to serve a variety of ages.
- All of the rooms will include some storage to accommodate the supplies of the classes and ministries that use them as well as be wired for the latest in technology
- Also, there will be large handicapped accessible restrooms in the center of the education wing to serve all those using the classrooms.
- An additional adult meeting room is also planned as a “lock off” room to accommodate smaller groups in a location that could be used when the main wings of the building are closed, adding flexibility and saving on heating and cooling costs. This space will also have its own restroom and kitchenette for hospitality.



Our Campaign

To address our needs and plans, we are initiating an intensive fundraising effort titled the “*One in the Spirit*” campaign. Our aim with this important effort is to raise the funds required to build a new Parish Life Center.

A typical Catholic church of our size and income should be able to raise \$2,000,000. However, we need and hope to do better than an average church and have set our minimum goal at \$3,000,000, which will enable us to take down the old school and break ground on the new Parish Life Center, while taking on some debt. A challenge goal of \$4,500,000 has also been set which, if met, will enable us to complete the Parish Life Center with little to no debt.

Goals

\$3,000,000
Minimum Goal

\$4,500,000
Challenge Goal

Levels of Support Needed to Succeed

In order to reach our financial objectives, we will need both a substantial number of givers and a few, fairly substantial gifts.

Size of Gift	Number Needed	Minimum Need
\$ 400,000 or more	1	\$ 400,000
\$ 200,000 - 399,999	2	\$ 400,000
\$ 100,000 - 199,999	4	\$ 400,000
\$ 50,000 - 99,999	8	\$ 400,000
\$ 25,000 - 49,999	16	\$ 400,000
\$ 10,000 - 24,999	40	\$ 400,000
\$ 5,000 - 9,999	80	\$ 400,000
Less than \$5,000	619	\$ 200,000
Total	770	\$3,000,000



Gift Options

All members are asked to consider gifts above and beyond what they give in their regular offerings and other contributions. And there is a variety of ways that gifts can be made.

- Long-term subscriptions, or pledges payable over three years, are easier for most and essential to meeting our goal, since it would be impractical, if not impossible, to reach our objectives with one-time, out-of-pocket gifts. Gifts may be made in monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual installments at the donor's discretion. A 10% initial investment toward your total pledge is requested.
- Non-cash gifts are an additional or alternative way you can support our cause. You may, for example, wish to consider gifts "in kind" such as labor and materials; gifts of securities such as stocks and bonds; gifts of real estate or even personal property such as artwork, automobiles, jewelry and antiques.
- And finally, you can also choose to support our efforts through deferred gifts. These are gifts that can be given or arranged for now, but will not be received until later, and include gifts through a person's will by bequest, gifts of life insurance policies or annuities, and gifts in trust.

Gift Opportunities

There are also a number of very special gift opportunities available to donors of qualifying gift amounts. These opportunities allow people the unique chance to designate their gifts to a particular part of the project and dedicate them in honor or memory of those they choose.

Building Gift Opportunities

Parish Life Center	\$ 500,000
Fellowship Wing	\$ 250,000
Education Wing	\$ 250,000

Special Sections and Selections

Large Parish Hall	\$ 250,000
Small Parish Hall	\$ 150,000
Large Kitchen	\$ 100,000
Lobby	\$ 75,000
CCD Administration	\$ 50,000
Small Kitchen	\$ 50,000
Adult Meeting Room	\$ 30,000
BBQ /Cracklin	\$ 25,000
Workshop & Storage	\$ 25,000
Classrooms (16)	\$ 25,000
Front Porch	\$ 15,000
Back Porch	\$ 15,000

Prices of the stated items are not necessarily reflective of the component's cost. Rather, they are based on the prominence of the item, our needs, and hopefully, the gift abilities of our community. Although payments for these gifts may be made over the entire pledge period, recognition will be given when the gift is paid in full.

Gift Options and Opportunities

"Recognize that all you have and are, are gifts from God and respond appropriately by sharing what you have in a loving and lasting way with those who seek to do God's will and work. This is the essence of what it means to be a sound steward, to emulate the example and become a disciple of the ultimate steward, Jesus Christ."



Pledge Plans

(Three-Year Pledges)

*“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”
1 Peter 4:10*

Gift Level	Total Gift	(10%) Initial Investment	Daily *	Weekly *	Payment Plans			
					(36) Monthly	(12) Quarterly	(6) Semi-Annually	(3) Annually
Pacesetter	\$1,000,000	100,000	822	5,769	25,000	75,000	150,000	300,000
	750,000	75,000	616	4,327	18,750	56,250	112,500	225,000
	500,000	50,000	411	2,885	12,500	37,500	75,000	150,000
	250,000	25,000	206	1,442	6,250	18,750	37,500	75,000
	100,000	10,000	82	577	2,500	7,500	15,000	30,000
	75,000	7,500	62	433	1,875	5,625	11,250	22,500
	50,000	5,000	41	288	1,250	3,750	7,500	15,000
	40,000	4,000	33	231	1,000	3,000	6,000	12,000
	30,000	3,000	25	173	750	2,250	4,500	9,000
	25,000	2,500	21	144	625	1,875	3,750	7,500
Major	20,000	2,000	16.44	115	500	1,500	3,000	6,000
	15,000	1,500	12.33	87	375	1,125	2,250	4,500
	10,000	1,000	8.22	58	250	750	1,500	3,000
	5,000	500	4.11	29	125	375	750	1,500
Community	4,000	400	3.29	23	100	300	600	1,200
	3,000	300	2.47	17	75	225	450	900
	2,000	200	1.64	12	50	150	300	600

* These figures are provided for illustration purposes only. To minimize costs, suggested payment plans include monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual installments.

