

# United By Faith

## Prayer for the Success of Our Process

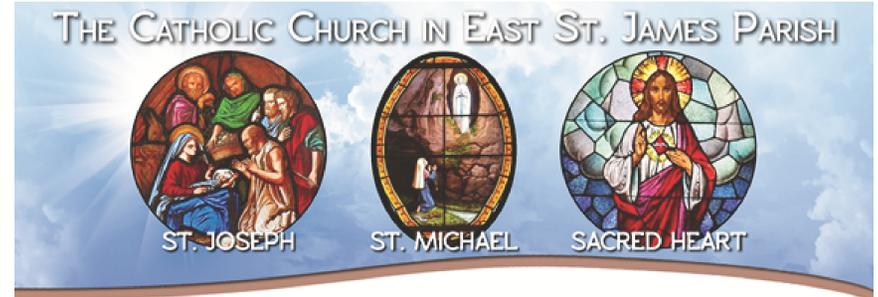
An excerpt from St. Michael Special School on "Gratitude"

... *Blessed are you* who stand beside us as we enter new and untried ventures, for our failures will be outweighed by the times when we surprise ourselves and you.

*Blessed are you* who ask for our help, for our greatest need is to be needed.

*Blessed are you* who help us with the graciousness of Christ, "Who did not bruise the reed and quench the flax, for often we need the help we cannot ask for . . ."

May God Bless you to be open, receptive, willing to listen and provide feedback for the needs of our parish family that we all may be successful in this endeavor. Amen



## Together With Christ, For Our Future

### We Need You!

We need your ideas and vision to move us forward! Your valuable input shapes our future!

Check out our parish website:

[www.rivrdcat.org](http://www.rivrdcat.org)

*United By Faith* link on the home page

Input Sessions					
Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6
Thursday Oct. 17 <sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Sacred Heart Center	Monday Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup> 6:30pm St. Joseph S.P.C. Cafeteria	Tuesday Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup> 6:30pm St. Michael Hall	Wednesday Nov. 6 <sup>th</sup> 6:30pm St. Michael Hall	Thursday Nov. 7 <sup>th</sup> 6:30pm St. Joseph S.P.C. Cafeteria	Tuesday Nov. 12 <sup>th</sup> 6:30pm Sacred Heart Center
General Assemblies					
Sunday, Nov. 17 <sup>th</sup> 1:00pm St. Michael Hall			Wednesday, Nov 20 <sup>th</sup> 6:30pm St. Joseph Church		

## Introduction & Background

Our three church parishes provide much history and represent the sacrifices of many who came before us. The religious missionaries coming to St. Michael the Archangel Parish in the beginning, and the priests of the Diocese of New Orleans in the early 1800's, with the addition of St. Joseph Parish in 1900, and the inclusion of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in 1961, have brought us to what we call today: *"The Catholic Church in East St. James Parish"*. Our parish family possesses many strengths, such as, a comprehensive youth program, sacramental preparation programs for all ages, days of prayer and parish missions, adult formation sessions, perpetual adoration, Respect Life and vocation promotions, and active stewardship programs with a great number of lay participants. Most recently, we addressed the need for a school gym and successfully met that challenge. However, our needs and opportunities for improvement continue, as it did for parishioners before us. Thus, we began a needs assessment to investigate the current and future requirements of our facilities.

## Emerging Needs

As a collaborative cluster, building on the success of our past history and continuing to implement a plan for facilities, parish leaders and committee members initiated a comprehensive long-range planning process for our church parishes which we have named: ***United By Faith, Together With Christ, For Our Future***. This summer we began working with the Institute of School & Parish Development (ISPD) led by Bernard DuMond, Senior Associate. ISPD's role is to assist us with an exploration, discovery, and feasibility study for implementing a master plan for our cluster parishes. Through this process, parishioners are involved in assessing immediate and future needs of all three parish facilities, focusing on the existing assets to provide sustainability and future growth for the Catholic Church in East St. James Parish.

## Preliminary Needs Assessment – Sacred Heart of Jesus

Approximate Total Budget = \$823,800

**Retire Debt** – \$100,000

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**Sacred Heart Church** – total = \$239,000

- Replace roof – \$129,000
- Choir loft issues – chair lift; emergency egress – \$110,000

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**Sacred Heart Center** – total = \$333,800

- Bathroom renovation ADA compliant – \$59,000
- Kitchen renovation – \$60,000
- H.A/C renovation – \$83,000
- Ceiling height improvement – \$23,500
- Lighting issues – \$19,300
- Entry way & overall improvements – \$89,000

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**Older PSR Classrooms** – total = \$151,000

- Improve H.A/C system – \$60,000
- Renovate bathrooms, windows, walls, ceiling, etc. – \$91,000

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## Preliminary Needs Assessment – St. Joseph Parish

Approximate Total Budget = \$915,400

### St. Joseph Church – total = \$665,400

- Walls and ceiling repair and painting – \$83,000
- H.A/C renovation (correct hot/cold spot issue) – \$21,400
- Pews need refurbishing (refinish/repair) – \$100,000
- Floor issues – trip hazard with pew platform; carpet or hard surface – \$180,000
- Sanctuary renovation – move/install central tabernacle; lower main altar platform – \$23,500
- Enhance lighting throughout – \$22,000
- Entry renovations – cry rooms, bathroom, reconciliation room, vesting sacristy, etc. – \$160,500
- Choir loft issues – trip hazards, storage space, etc. – \$48,200
- Automation of lighting, locks, etc. – \$26,800

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### Parking Lot

- Add parking spaces (east side of church between Pastoral Center and Maintenance Shed) – \$250,000

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These initial assessments indicate all three parish facilities are in need of renovations, care and maintenance. Among the many possible projects, Sacred Heart Church needs a new roof; St. Joseph Church needs serious interior repairs; St. Michael Parish Hall, along with other facilities, needs extensive renovation. The conclusion was to develop an integrated Master Plan which would address the design of all facilities and infrastructure requirements for our future.

Pastoral Council members along with our pastor are committed to seeking the most economically feasible solutions to the varied projects in our future. We certainly know they cannot all be done at once. Fr. Vincent recognizes that he is only a steward of our resources and will not allow any parishioner contributions to be wasted. Likewise, there is a commitment to be as energy efficient as possible to maintain future cost-effective use of our facilities. Certainly any work done will seek to keep our parish buildings historically accurate and safely functional for a long-term future. As the descendants of those who began our parishes, we want our great grandchildren and beyond to feel the same pride of ownership which we feel today.

## *Invitation to Participate*

As a key component in this exploration and discovery process, the Catholic Church in East St. James Parish is considering the feasibility of launching a three-year Capital Campaign that will focus on the “proposed” list of parish needs. We are very interested in making sure we hear from as many parishioners as possible to discuss our plans and determine our future direction. This booklet along with the Input Sessions and General Assemblies is the means by which you can make your ideas known.

Thank you for taking the time to participate now with your brother and sister parishioners and to share our future together with Christ.

**Preliminary Needs Assessment – St. Michael Parish  
(Including St. Mary Mission)**

Approximate Total Budget = \$1,491,800

**St. Michael Hall** – total = \$471,100

- Walls and roof/ceiling replacement – \$128,500
- Bathrooms renovation ADA compliant – \$48,200
- Kitchen renovation – \$56,800
- Interior work - wiring, sheet rock walls, stage renovation, storage, H.A/C renovation – \$216,200
- Extended covered entrance – \$21,400

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**St. Michael Rectory & Kitchen** – total = \$133,800

- Structural and maintenance issues; certain piers need replacing
- Stairs need to be replaced/reworked; carport repaired/replaced

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**St. Michael Parking Lot** – total = \$180,000

- Repairs and enhancements (asphalt overlay)

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**Preliminary Needs Assessment – St. Michael Parish  
(continued)**

**St. Michael School** – total = \$275,000

- Level building (sills & piers replacement)
- Remove/replace concrete porch with lighter, better structure
- Repair doors, windows, etc.
- Fire alarm system

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**St. Mary Church** – total = \$181,900

- Repair/replace roof – \$160,000
- H.A/C repair/replace – \$5,400
- Insurance check-list: sidewalk repair; interior carpet/floor repair/replace; check electrical issues – \$16,500

*Explore historical “museum” status for grants*

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**St. Michael Church** – total = \$250,000

- Preventative maintenance (such as, spot painting of exterior window/door treatments) – \$50,000
- Replace steeple (lost with Hurricane Betsy) – \$200,000

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