

# United By Faith

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN EAST ST. JAMES PARISH



ST. JOSEPH



ST. MICHAEL



SACRED HEART

*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!

**Listening Committee – Input Sessions**  
**All parishioners welcome to any session**

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

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# Exploration, Discovery, Feasibility Study

## *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.

These initial assessments indicate all three parish facilities are in need of renovations, care and maintenance. Sacred Heart Church needs a new roof; St. Joseph Church needs serious interior repairs; St. Michael Parish Hall, among 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.

## *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.

As the reverse states: **We need you!** *All parishioners are invited to attend any of the input sessions because the needs of all parishes will be discussed at each session.*

**You are welcome whenever and wherever you can attend.**