

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEWS

December 2020

Moving Forward in Faith

At this time of year, as our hearts are filled with the anticipation of rejoicing in the coming of our Savior, we also are looking farther along at the core meaning of our faith – the resurrection and promise of salvation that Easter brings to us. Lourdes has been the Mother Church of African American Catholics in Atlanta since 1912. During that time, through all the twists and turns, ups and downs, our community has tried to live the welcoming call of the Easter message. We have had outstretched arms and open hearts as we have shared the Good News of the Resurrection and the promise of Redemption. Like inviting others to our home to share a meal, we must have a table and a space that will accommodate those who seek to join us at the table of the Lord.

With all this in mind, Easter is a perfect time to launch **Moving Forward in Faith**, our theme for our Capital Campaign. This campaign is not just so that we can expand. We, as a community of joy, faith and service, will experience a renewal and resurrection as we go through the process of watching our physical home be raised up through our prayer and sacrifice.

It seems that all worthwhile dreams and pursuits begin with a sacrifice. This was certainly true when Our Lady of Lourdes was founded in 1912 by St. Katharine Drexel. In order to continue our legacy and grow our community, it is time for us to expand and renovate our campus. We will be initiating the beginning of the pledge portion of the Capital Campaign to build the new church at the same time we are asking the entire Lourdes Family to renew your pledge to support the parish through your stewardship.

After we have invested in our new church with pledges, then we will ask for others from the wider Atlanta community to join us by sponsoring artistic elements of the worship space and we will submit proposals to foundations that seek to grow the Catholic Church. They always ask if the members have given before they consider making a grant, so our pledges will precede our fundraising activities outside the parish.

Imagine what it will be like when we walk into our new church: think of the joy, the new members, the beauty. It will be a continuation of that 1912 dream blended with the beautiful community we are becoming.

From Our Pastor

As we continue in this season of Advent, we are preparing for and embracing what's to come in the new year. In January 2021, we will move ahead with our combined Annual Stewardship and Capital Campaign. This year has been one where we have had to confront many challenges. After much prayer and discernment, we will proceed with our fundraising efforts and moving forward in faith.

Just as the early followers of Christ spent much time in prayer, we want to begin praying daily for our church and our upcoming campaign endeavor. Please join me daily in praying for our church as we anticipate the new year and plan for our future.

Just as we have experienced throughout our history the past 108 years, God loves us and will be with us every step of the way as we follow the vision before us.

In the hope, peace, and love that Christ brings,

Father Jeffery

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we doing a campaign while we are still in the pandemic? We postponed beginning the Capital Campaign from last fall to this April. It is our hope that by the time we actually get the campaign started, we will also be able to see an end in sight to the pandemic. The vision of a new church is providing us with some much needed hope and excitement for the future. Please remain in prayer that our beginning of the campaign will be blessed with success.

Why are we planning to do an Annual Stewardship and Capital Campaign at the same time? While we have the need to begin raising funds for the Capital Campaign, we also have our on-going financial obligations for the parish that must be fulfilled. We believe that doing a combined drive will provide an effective way to care for the on-going needs of an aging physical campus, be fiscally responsible and financially supportive to programming for a growing parish, while also raising the resources to build our new church. We really need to do both simultaneously.

To view additional questions and other pertinent information related to our future plans, please visit LourdesAtlanta.org/ourfuture.

KEY CAMPAIGN DATES

- MAR 21 | Prayer and Discernment begins
- APR 4 | Commitment Sunday and Easter

JOIN US TO BUILD OUR LEGACY

You are invited to attend one of the upcoming Capital Campaign Informational Events. Each event will include the latest update on the Capital Campaign and the new church building with an opportunity for Q&As. Please save the date now for the event of your choice. RSVP information coming in January. *Thank you!*

SAVE THE DATE

Virtual Event Schedule

- FEB 6 | **Mardi Gras Gala**
6:30 pm
- FEB 7 | **L.I.G.H.T. Lourdes It's Gathering Hope Time**
following Mass
- FEB 10 | **Black History Month: The History of Lourdes**
6:30 pm
- FEB 13 | **Valentines: The Love of Lourdes**
6:30 pm
- FEB 20 | **Jazz Night**
6:30 pm
- FEB 24 | **Spoken Word**
6:30 pm
- FEB 28 | **Kentucky Derby**
6:30 pm

