

## **Our Lady of Lourdes Expansion and Parking Update February 2016**

Greetings from the Our Lady of Lourdes Expansion Steering Committee!

As we ease into 2016 as a Church Community, the Expansion Steering Committee thought it would be appropriate to provide you with a comprehensive update. In light of the financial commitments and support you have so graciously invested in our church expansion project, we want to make sure that we are keeping you informed of the process and what our next steps will be regarding two distinct issues: the building of a new sanctuary and remedying our current parking challenges. You can expect more frequent updates as matters progress and, as always, we welcome your feedback and suggestions as we move Lourdes into its next century of service.

For our first update of 2016 we thought it would be helpful to provide background on the project, then bring you forward to our current status.

In 2008, the congregation agreed we needed to expand the sanctuary after a fourth Mass had been added to accommodate continued growth.

Here are the highlights:

- Collecting in excess of \$1 million on Easter Sunday 2008 to purchase prime realty known as the "Edgewood Property" to expand our church campus
- Working with the Atlanta Urban Design Commission to gain approval on June 11, 2008 of our conceptual master plan for construction and development of the Edgewood Property
- Finalizing the purchase in July 2008 of the Edgewood property

### **Expanding the Capacity of our Sanctuary**

Over the past five years, Lourdes' congregation has grown from 900 families to more than 1600 families. This explosive growth has resulted in the sanctuary regularly being over capacity for our 10 AM masses, and sometimes for the 12 PM masses, as well. Typically we have between 350 and 400 in attendance each mass; however, our actual seating capacity is limited to 240.

This not only creates a safety concern, but the tight quarters also impacts the overall comfort and experience of our worship.

Here are the initial steps that have been taken:

- Appointing an expansion steering committee to advise our Pastor, Fr. Jeffery M. Ott, O.P., on addressing the congregation's concerns regarding church capacity, parking needs, disabled access, meeting rooms, classrooms, and event facilities
- Having Committee members participate in an overnight facilitated retreat and multiple strategy sessions to establish a timeline of deliverables and organizational objectives.
- Planning to work side by side with the Pastoral Council and the Finance Council.

### **Current Expansion Plans and Next Steps**

The planning process took a detour when rare nearby parcels of property became available, which we have dubbed the "Centennial Property" bounded by Boulevard and Daniel Street. Throughout 2013 and 2014, a lengthy process of hearings with neighborhood planning groups and the City of Atlanta Zoning Review Board ensued regarding the Centennial Property. This stopped forward momentum with developing a comprehensive expansion plan. Because parking is a major concern we shifted our focus and directed our resources to the "parking project," as discussed below. However, the need for expansion continues, leading us to establish the following objectives:

- Our next step will be to retain a Capital Campaign Firm who, after being briefed on our goals and vision for expansion of our parish, will help us develop a project plan that includes architectural drawings, costs, construction timelines, etc.

➤ **Hire Capital Campaign consultants by June 2016**

➤ **Begin Capital Campaign by February 2017**

### **Parking Expansion Project**

As a "commuter parish," parking will remain a major concern moving forward. Currently we have approximately 85 available parking spots on our property, which is classified as an historic site by the City of Atlanta. Unfortunately, this classification poses some challenges as we seek to accommodate the parking needs of our expanding congregation. In the meantime, parishioners must park on surrounding streets and in other locations.

As mentioned above, in 2013 we were presented with an opportunity to purchase a piece of property on the south side of Edgewood that was priced below market value and could serve as dedicated parking for Our Lady of Lourdes. Given the limited options available to us as the Edgewood corridor continues to increase in popularity and development, we thought this would be a great way to remedy our parking challenges in the short term, and in anticipation of a new, larger sanctuary. The congregation quickly agreed, funds were raised, and the property—(called the "Centennial Property")—was acquired.

Unfortunately, a number of unanticipated restrictions have been imposed by the City of Atlanta's Zoning Review Board and the community has demanded that the property be developed for mixed-use rather than just parking. These restrictions have prevented us from quickly converting this property into a parking lot.

### **Parking Expansion Next Steps**

With restrictions placed on the Centennial Property, we are consulting with local developers to explore options for turning it into a mixed-use property including retail, housing, office spaces and parking. The proper arrangement will allow us to obtain the parking we need and meet the stipulations imposed by the City of Atlanta and the community.

Therefore, the next steps for the Parking Expansion are as follows:

- Centennial Property fencing to be completed by the end of March 2016
- Explore temporary alternative parking solutions such as negotiating the use of existing lots on Edgewood as well as other nearby locations
- Determine whether it is in Lourdes' ultimate best interests to move forward with developing the Centennial Property, given the restrictions that have been imposed on our use of the land.

### **Lourdes Expansion Steering Committee Members**

Paulette Lewis, Co-chair

Gerrard Grant, Co-chair

Kelly Register

Eric Winchester, Secretary

Belinda Skelton

David Coleman

Adrian Gibson

Carl Hagood

Tom Cook

Deborah Carmichael

Jim Macke

Winfield Pollidore

Ed Hardnett

Fr. Bruce Schultz, O.P., Associate Pastor

Fr. Jeffery Ott, O.P., Pastor



A CENTURY OF WITNESS – A FUTURE OF COMMITMENT

# OUR LADY of LOURDES

CATHOLIC CHURCH

## 2016 Lenten Observances

1. Ash Wednesday, February 10th and Good Friday, March 25th are days of abstinence from meat and fasting.
  2. The Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat (canon 1250 – 1253).
  3. The observance of abstinence from meat applies to all Catholics 14 years of age and older (canon 1252).
  4. The observance of fasting applies to all Catholics 18 years of age and older, but not yet 59 (canon 1252).
- \*A Catholic tradition of fasting is one main meal per day, along with two small meals which do not equal the main meal.*
5. Traditionally, Fridays of the year outside the Lenten season remain days of penance where each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other form of penance which might include acts of self-denial, temperance, acts of religion (e.g.: attending daily mass, praying the rosary), charity and/or Christian witness (canon 1250).

Those who are sick, pregnant (or nursing), or whose health would adversely be affected by fasting or abstinence should not consider themselves bound by these observances.

The following are some recommendations for voluntary self-denial or personal penance:

- Daily prayer (add some additional time).
- Prayers for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.
- Personal service to the aged or the sick.
- Fasting at least once a week as a way of identifying with the poor and starving of the world.
- Prayer for the Catechumens and Candidates who will be celebrating the Easter Sacraments this year.
- Prayer for peace in our hearts and in the world.

# Come (Alleluia) Sunday!!

Our Lenten Revival Journey toward Resurrection Sunday

"Lord, dear Lord above, God Almighty, God of love," ... "please look down and see my people through."

Lyrics from "Come Sunday" - 1<sup>st</sup> Sacred Concert  
by Duke Ellington

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church  
Lenten Revival

Guest Revivalist

Josslyn Lockett *MDiv, Harvard University*

*Billings Preaching Prize Winner at Harvard Divinity School*

All Weekend Masses February 13 - 14

(1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent)

Monday, February 15 & Tuesday, February 16, 2016

7PM Nightly



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

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Atlanta, Georgia

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

404.522.6776

Reverend Jeffery Ott, Pastor



A CENTURY OF WITNESS A FUTURE OF COMMITMENT

OUR LADY of LOURDES  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

FOUNDED THROUGH  
THE GENEROSITY OF  
SAINT KATHARINE DREAIL