



 Our Lady of Lourdes
Moving
Forward
In **FAITH**

OUR LADY OF LOURDES
CATHOLIC CHURCH

**The Capital Campaign for the Mother Church
of Atlanta's African-American Catholic Community**

**Historic Old Fourth Ward
Atlanta, Georgia**

Why? And Why Now?

For 110 years, Our Lady of Lourdes has provided a home for thousands of Catholics. While the joy-filled, exuberant “Lourdes experience” has brought a steady stream of new members and visitors, it has also shown us that our house is now too small.

Despite the challenges of 2020, we firmly believe now is the time to plan for our future. We are thankful for the blessing of giving, which remained strong in 2020, in spite of a pandemic. Parishioners who were forced to stay home and away from their church home at Our Lady of Lourdes continued to engage with one another by participating in virtual events and ministry activities. Although it looked and felt different from the comfort of a couch, Our Lady of Lourdes’ online streaming Mass attendance doubled that of our in-person services.



Greetings Lourdes Family and Friends:

Moving Forward In Faith. These words are the cornerstone of expanding and growing our new church. They’ve also

been the guiding creed for the mission of Our Lady of Lourdes to serve metro Atlanta and beyond since 1912.

When I had the privilege of becoming pastor nearly 11 years ago, I saw that Lourdes parishioners are mission-oriented and dedicated to helping the “least, lost, and last” among us. Our commitment to social action comes to life every day through more than thirty ministries, from feeding the hungry through our Lourdes Lunch to providing financial assistance through our St. Vincent de Paul Society, to our HIV/AIDS ministry and our work with a school and church in Haiti.

Leaning into the future God has for us — and the possibilities and promise of our growing parish — ignited our original drive in 2008 to purchase property next to our current home and begin initial planning and design work for a new church. I am deeply grateful for the faith, prayers and continued commitment of all who have supported our journey thus far. God is blessing our efforts in great ways!

Now, it’s time to move forward in faith and hope together. In giving prayerful consideration, thought and discernment about a Capital Campaign gift, remember that the past, present, and future of Our Lady of Lourdes are rooted in our faith in action.

When you give, you’re not simply supporting the construction of a new building. Your gift today strengthens our mission, our purpose and our commitment to the teachings, example, and sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

May God bless you and keep you always.

Joyfully in Christ,

Father Jeffrey

The Lourdes Mission: Commitment Through Service

The Lourdes mission is anchored in active service to our neighbors, be they in our metro Atlanta community or beyond our borders. When you give a gift to Lourdes, your generosity is put to work immediately. Our Lady of Lourdes has more than 30 active and engaging ministries that fall into 3 categories: Liturgical, Outreach and Parish Life. For a complete listing, please visit the lourdesatlanta.org website.



Music Ministry



Haiti Ministry



Knights of Peter Claver Family



Stephen Ministry Leaders



Simon's Call (AIDS Ministry)



Lourdes Lunch



Life Issues Committee



Religious Education



Social Action Committee



Amazing Grace Liturgical Dancers



Society of St. Vincent de Paul



The Dream Green Team

we are active | we are committed | we are Lourdes

FUTURE CHURCH



Our welcoming entry will face Edgewood Avenue. Across the street will be a new parking structure for our use.



The baptismal font will be accessible to all as they enter the sanctuary.



The larger Narthex will allow for greeting, socializing, and hugs!



We will be able to enjoy our amazing choir from their new space.



The new church will have seats for over 500 people—an increase of 250.



PARISH HISTORY

OUR PAST

- 1911** Fr. Ignatius Lissner founded site for mission church and obtained funding from Mother Katharine Drexel, foundress of the Sisters of Blessed Sacrament. J.J. Spalding, a prominent Atlanta attorney, helped remove obstacles to purchase the land.
- 1912** Our Lady of Lourdes School opened with 50 students. The parish, originally known as Archbishop Ryan Memorial, opened with 15 members. The name was later changed to Our Lady of Lourdes by Mother Katharine in honor of the date of Archbishop Ryan's passing.
- 1913** Four Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament arrived to teach at the School.
- 1917** The Great Fire of Atlanta destroyed 300 acres of the Fourth Ward and displaced 10,000 people. Our Lady of Lourdes' buildings were spared.
- 1961** Dedication of current church building.
- 1974** Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament withdrew from Lourdes due to greater needs in other areas.
- 1981** Renovation of school included a cafeteria and a computer room and library on the second floor — including space where dance studio is now located.
- 1998** Expansion of church building completed to increase worship space and additional restrooms.
- 2000** Mother Katharine Drexel was canonized a Saint by Pope John Paul II.
- 2001** The Archdiocese closed Our Lady of Lourdes School, citing low admissions and cessation of funds from the archdiocese.
- 2008** Lourdes completed successful Capital Campaign of \$2M and acquired the only property immediately adjacent to the current campus.
- 2008** The Atlanta Urban Design Commission approved the Lourdes' conceptual master plan/site plan for the construction of a new sanctuary on the property.
- 2014** Purchased land bordered by Boulevard, Daniel, Gartell streets and later sold to a developer, included allocation of 200 parking spaces to Lourdes in perpetuity. Projected completion date 2022.

OUR FUTURE

- APR 4, 2021** Easter Sunday kick-off date for Capital Campaign.
- 2025** Proposed groundbreaking for new worship space.

The Decision to Give

First, pray and reflect on how God has blessed you. Ask yourself, "What resources has He provided me that could help the church?" Consider the impact your generosity will have on Lourdes' mission and ministries.

A helpful guideline is to prayerfully consider committing 3% of your annual household income for each year of the three-year campaign. Or you may decide on a one-time gift of 3% of your assets, in addition to your regular parish giving. Some of you may be able to give more. All gifts, no matter the size, are important and will help further the Lord's work through our church.

You can also give through stocks, bonds, personal property and IRAs. Donating appreciated stock or personal property may help you save on capital gains tax and is tax-deductible. We recommend contacting your tax advisor before making this kind of contribution. To learn more, contact the church office at (404) 522-6776. Thank you.





OUR LOURDES STORY

My family's Lourdes story dates back to the 1940s, when my grandmother, Mary McMullen, joined the parish and enrolled in school. My family lived in the nearby Grady Homes complex. The church is very

dear and near to us as it is the center of our family. My mom, Mary McMullen-Francis, aunt and uncles were all baptized there and are Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School alumni. My cousins continued to attend the school until its closure in 2001. After graduating, my mom and aunt attended Atlanta Public Schools' now-closed David T. Howard Middle School. My mom even made history being among the first to integrate APS in 1961 as a student at Grady High School. My family remains active Lourdes parishioners and serves as eucharistic ministers, sings in the choir, teaches Sunday School and reads as lectors.

— The Francis Family

OUR LOURDES STORY

Ten years ago, friends invited us to join them for Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes. We had busy schedules and were members of another parish, so a few years passed by before we came.



What an experience it was! We have visited many churches and never had we seen such passion and love, or felt so much joy for the Mass. We resolved to find a place for ourselves in this community and now Lourdes is our church home. She lifts our spirits and brings us peace in trying times.

We feel it is our duty to contribute to her vitality and future. For us, the campaign to grow the Church is a way to help preserve her energy and her spirit for another 100 years.

— Chuck and Jennifer Wootten

VISION OF LOURDES

At Lourdes, we believe in the power of our faith and our Church to help shape the future. With a new home in the heart of Atlanta, we will continue to build on our 110-year history of changing lives, fostering community, and serving others with compassion.

Our new sanctuary will be a spiritual life center, filled with the joyful songs of worship and a place for peaceful prayer and quiet reflection. It will be a gathering place to deepen our knowledge of the Word and touch the lives of others through our active ministries. And it will be an inclusive, welcoming refuge for all who enter with an open heart when they need to feel the comfort of God's love and grace.

This is our vision and now is the time. Through the power of prayer and your generous support, together we can bring to life this brighter, bolder future for Our Lady of Lourdes.





Rooted in African-American Catholic history, Lourdes celebrates the Living Word, embraces inclusiveness, and inspires social action.



Our Original Church



Our Current Church

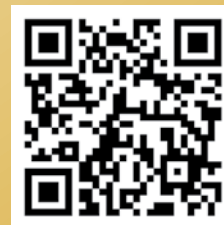


Our Future Church

CAMPAIGN PRAYER

God, You are our source of support. Give us courage to continue the work of building Your church, our church home at Our Lady of Lourdes. We, Your humble servants, pray for favor in Your sight, to receive every gift from all who support our work and mission. Lead us, guide us, and strengthen our faith each step of the way; and may we never lose sight of the vision that You have given us. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church would like to thank the more than 150 (and counting) parishioners who have served on the various Capital Campaign subcommittees. Your dedication and commitment have been invaluable to achieving our goal.



Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
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