

## Rationale for Purchasing Land

All Saints Roman Catholic Church, Taylorsville, KY

The following rationale supports the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) decision to purchase land for All Saints Catholic Church along the Hwy 155/55 corridor in Spencer County, KY:

A. Five masses need to be conducted jointly between All Saints Church in Taylorsville and St. Michaels Church in Fairfield to accommodate current parishioners on Saturdays/Sundays. All Saints Church seats 130 people comfortably. If we did not have three masses each weekend at All Saints, we would need chairs in the aisle and hallway for the Saturday 5:00 pm and/or Sunday 12:00 pm masses. The only other options we have is putting seats in the narrow side aisles and hallway during mass or using the parish hall with a live video feed from church so that parishioners could attend mass in both the church and parish hall. The shortage of priests in the archdiocese makes the option of increasing the number of masses at All Saints impossible. We need to find a substitute priest in case of illness or vacation at times.

B. Current growth at Spencer County: The Spencer County Magnet newspaper projects the county population will double in 15-20 years. Most of these will settle along the Hwy 155/55 corridor.

C. Neighboring parishes (St Edwards and St. Michaels in Jeffersontown and Annunciation in Shelbyville) are at capacity.

D. Large, new subdivisions are planned: One on Routt Road at the Jefferson County line, and the other at the intersection of Taylorsville Road and Taylorsville Lake Road. Approximately 2000 new houses will be developed. We think we will have rapid growth in membership when that happens.

E. We think that buying 20-40 acres in a prime location near the Hwy 155/55 corridor would prepare us for the continued migration of Catholics from Jefferson County. A parcel of land in this area would not only prepare us for building the future All Saints church, but would also allow us to build two more iterations of church buildings in the future. Eventually a school would also be built. If we wait, land in a prime location may not be available. When our present church is full to capacity we could move to our new site. This site would be closer to the majority of new and current parishioners.

F. The cost of prime land is going up each year. We need to secure land now or the cost of land will rise so much that we might not be able to afford it along the Hwy 155/55 corridor in the future.

G. In 2018 the LRPC studied the present facility at All Saints Church. We found that adding onto our present church or building a second church on the existing campus would not be feasible for several reasons:

- 1) Buying enough land adjacent to our current campus would be practically impossible and would be much more expensive than moving our congregation to the Hwy 155/55 corridor northwest of Taylorsville in Spencer County. It may take 5-10 years to accomplish purchasing existing residences or school property and may not be possible at all. Even then, the total amount of land purchased may not be enough for the expansion of building and parking lots.
- 2) Adding onto our current building would be impossible: Our church is located on a large hill. Access from the parking lot is difficult. We can't expand the current church in any significant way that would justify the cost. Also, expanding the current church would not allow us to accommodate the growth we are expecting.
- 3) The present church building is on the historical register in KY. Expanding a building that is on this register could be very costly. Any changes to the building would require bringing the entire facility up to current building standards.

#### Conclusion

Missionaries served people in this area in 1806. By 1815 St. Benedict Church was built. They had a church cemetery in Mount Eden. After St Benedict burned down All Saints Church was built in Taylorsville in 1830. We were, and are, the only face of Catholicism in Spencer County. Several of our former parishioners were buried in the cemetery in Mount Eden. All Saints has former members who are now saints in heaven. We honor our All Saints heritage in the name of God. We pray to God to help us remain relevant for another 200 years. The only viable option for All Saints to grow our congregation and remain relevant is to buy 20 to 40 acres in a prime location. This land purchase would provide us with a new campus to move the congregation to in the future and retain the All Saints Catholic Church name.

In a recent pastoral letter, Archbishop Kurtz described the diocese "as 110 parishes growing more deeply into the Body of Christ and helping one another do just that." He also told us that we needed, "To grow by increasing the members of our church". In order to remain vibrant, he asked us to decide where we were being called to grow as a vibrant parish and what we needed to get there. To remain vibrant and relevant we need to move our congregation to the Hwy 155/55 corridor. To continue to serve Catholics in and around Spencer County in the future, we need to purchase 20-40 acres in that area.

LRPC: Carl Zoeller, Daryl Wertz, Everene Rose, Gina Vaille-Nelson/Kris Nelson, Kelly Creed, Kenny Harryman, Susan Costanzo, Tony Niemann, Chair.

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