

THE PARISH COMMUNITY CENTER

St. Matthew's Parish is blessed with extremely committed leadership and an active parish family. Indeed, it is precisely because St. Matthew's is such a vibrant worship community that we must address a very pressing need at this time.

Our dynamic faith community is home to so many groups and events that the demands on our current multi-purpose facility are overwhelming. This tremendous demand is exacerbated by the fact that our current facility is too small and inadequate – there are many events that have to be postponed or cancelled because there is no room available or because the group is too big to fit in the available rooms.

After considerable discussion and study, the parish council, the finance council, and the school board all determined that St. Matthew's parish should go forth with plans to build a new multi-purpose facility, termed the *Parish Community Center*. In addition, the existing gymnasium will be refurbished and converted into a dedicated multi-purpose auditorium for parish and school programs. In total, this will be a multi-dimensional center that will provide the St. Matthew's community with a single site for social, educational, and athletic events.

The Parish Community Center will be a central component of our life at St. Matthew's, and many of our primary parish and school activities will take place here - e.g., celebrations, performances, assemblies, athletic events, etc. This new facility will bring the entire parish together under one roof, multiplying our meeting spaces and keeping our children's sports activities on the campus, while simultaneously providing them greater possibilities for music and the arts.

It is designed for maximum utilization by the school during the day, while simultaneously allowing us to satisfy our extensive parish meeting needs – after school, in the evenings, and on weekends. In essence, it will offer a more expansive location for parish gatherings while further enriching our schoolchildren's educational experience.

The new center will be built just east of the parish and school offices, adjacent to El Camino Real. The current Kitchen will remain untouched; Ward Hall and the auditorium will be refurbished. The Parish Center's many functions and facets will include:

- *Recreational Facility* – a gymnasium to host basketball and volleyball games for all grades. It will be home to our sports program.
- *Multi-purpose meeting rooms* – providing much-needed space for our many clubs, organizations, and committees to gather. The center will be structured so that it can accommodate multiple meetings, classes, and receptions simultaneously, if necessary.
- *Stage* – parish and school performances and events
- *Auditorium* – All large-scale functions will take place here. As examples, the auditorium will be home for our parish-wide meetings, dinners, and receptions.
- *Casa* - housing our pre-school and after-school program during the day, and to be used as meeting rooms in the evening
- *Music Room & Art Room* - enriching our parish's educational experience
- *Team Rooms, Storage Rooms, and Men's & Women's restrooms*

The total estimated cost to build this new Parish Community Center is approximately \$6,000,000. To achieve this total, *we envision utilizing \$2,000,000 of our parish savings, borrowing \$1,500,000 from the Archdiocese, and raising \$2.5 million in this fund raising effort.*

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