

ADVANCING OUR MISSION UPDATE

OUR LADY OF GRACE
CATHOLIC CHURCH
MAKING JESUS CHRIST KNOWN AND LOVED



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Dear Parishioner,

During these unprecedented times in our society, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church and School has responded by creating new avenues for liturgy, education, community outreach and fellowship. As the slow return to the communal celebration of Mass and receiving the Eucharist unfolds, we are taking every precaution to welcome everyone safely. Likewise, we look forward to welcoming our students back to campus in the fall. You can probably imagine the preparations which will be taking place over the summer under the leadership of our new principal and, possibly, more distance learning. OLG was and continues to be a thriving community! We continue to strive making Jesus Christ known and loved, and will adjust how we do that, as the Spirit gives occasion.

It was our mission of making Jesus Christ known and loved that launched the Advancing Our Mission (AOM) campaign last year. We celebrated a very successful fundraising effort and began construction of the Priest Residence. AOM efforts were in full motion when COVID-19 pushed a global pause button. As so many of you have contributed to this effort with your generosity and prayers, I wanted to share an update on what's been accomplished and what's next with regard to AOM:

Priest Residence - Construction is ongoing and on target to complete this summer! Stay tuned for a dedication blessing and open house. Additionally, we expect to have a new parochial vicar join our parish community this summer. Father Matthew will need to come back and visit!

Campaign Continuation - We have already raised and/or secured pledges of approximately \$20 million. We estimate that it will take approximately \$5 million more to complete the project. A continuation fundraising committee has been established under the leadership of Joe and Stephanie Fitzgerald. This committee's efforts are currently paused due to refocused activities in response to the financial implications of COVID-19.

Construction - Ground was to be broken on the Parish Activity Center, Preschool and Link (school/parish ministry space) in June. Despite strong continued pledge collection, ministry and school activities, I have made the decision along with parish leadership to delay the start of construction to allow us both personally and as a parish to navigate these turbulent times. The additional time will also allow us to continue to seek funding for the remainder of the project, but at a pace congruent with the current global reality. We will revisit the groundbreaking date regularly with the Parish Pastoral Council and Finance Committee and keep you informed.

Although disappointing, we need to slow down our AOM efforts. Be assured, though, that the money already raised and you continue to send as pledge fulfillments will not be redirected. *Thank you* for your amazing support! I know these times aren't easy for anyone. We have a great jump-start on the design for our next 75 years and our trust in God, the architect and builder of all creation, remains steadfast.

I once again extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to Kevin and Patty Gilligan as well as Doug and Cindy Fulton for sharing their time, talents and faith as leaders of the AOM campaign. May our mission of making Jesus Christ known and loved radiate during these uncertain times.

During Maureen Trenary's Mass and Celebration of her service as OLG principal for the past 29 years, she described the OLG community as one of "dreamers and doers". Let us continue the dream and be doers of the Word, for indeed God lavishly pours out His Spirit afresh upon us. Let us work together, stay calm and support each other during this time. Please pray for our parishioners, students and loved ones who have been impacted by this virus.

In Christ,

Father Kevin Finnegan
Pastor

Priest Residence

Construction began with our ground breaking ceremony back on November 18, 2019. We're excited in welcoming our OLG Priests back on our campus later this summer!

The Priest Residence will provide a fraternal living environment, supporting our priests to live in community with other Archdiocesan or visiting priests. The residence includes: full kitchen, dining room, gathering space, a pastor's suite, four bedrooms with full baths, chapel, an exercise space, a lift and a 4-car garage.

Stay tuned for a dedication blessing and open house. Father Matthew Northenscold will reside with us until this fall, at which point he will move to Washington, D.C. Our new parochial vicar will move in shortly thereafter. Also, several other priests have begun discussions with us about moving in.



New Space Design

Designing the new space with the help of Opus and The Cuningham Group has been the focus since the fundraising celebration at the beginning of February. We received significant input on must-have and nice-to-have practicals for the Preschool, Parish Activity Center and Link, and are ready to be worked into a floor plan. The final budget is fixed, so all changes will remain within that budget. As we continue to clarify specific spaces and related uses, there will be many opportunities to make memorial dedications or fund-a-need gifts (e.g., stage curtain, basketball hoops, furniture for a specific space, technology, windows, lockers, paint). And, although the School, as our largest ministry, was a focus for the Link, it remains a multi-use space for the entire parish community. Everyone will be able to find ways for the new space to make Jesus Christ known and loved!

Guiding Principles

- Design multi-purpose space while still achieving highest functionality for an intended purpose
- Create building connectivity and reduce compartmentalization
- Increase collaboration space and reduce minimal use space
- Consider how every space can be a learning space
- Pull in as much direct and indirect light as possible
- Leverage a variety of wall types (e.g., glass, half glass, opaque, tackboards, whiteboards, collapsible) to enable flexibility, collaboration and openness
- For the School specifically, make space conducive to differentiated learning, maximize middle school time in the Link, and minimize transition time



Exterior Design

The exterior design has been finalized and submitted to the City of Edina. Several architecture styles were considered, but the timeless Gregorian architecture of the OLG campus that matched was selected. The new building will reflect the existing architecture, including the crosses, border medallians and cornice work.



School Entrance

The new School entrance will be through the Parish Activity Center on the former Rectory location on the east side of campus. The School entrance will consist of a double-door security vestibule and reception desk. Entry to the Preschool will be through the same security vestibule.

Lower Level Link Reception Area

Opposite the entrance, there will be a staircase to the upper level, concessions and restrooms to the left of the stairs, and a reception area behind the stairs. This reception area begins the Lower Level Link and is expected to be heavily used for both Church and School hospitality, relieving the scheduling pressure on the Commons and Dining Room. The Link was designed as two floors (instead of a two story atrium) with the lower level including a new Frassati Room (youth/young adult space), an open commons area with a projection wall and this reception area.

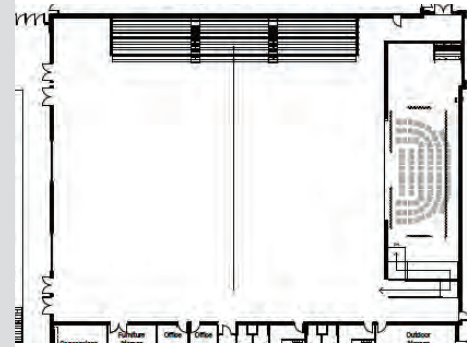


Preschool

The Preschool will consist of 3 large learning rooms (2 upper level, 1 lower level) with varied dividers in each room (e.g., glass, pegboard, carpet). Each large room will accommodate multiple groups of 8-10 students. There will also be a large motor space on the lower level. Entrance to the Preschool will be through the same security vestibule as the new School entrance to the left after passing through the first set of doors. A new Preschool Playground will be built on the east side of the building.

Parish Activity Center

The School entrance will lead into the Parish Activity Center Lobby (see below). The Gym will have 1 high school size court with a divider for 2 middle school size courts. The stage has been designed for choir and theater events, with side and back stages. Locker rooms are included and part of a storm shelter reinforcement space which includes much of the Lower Level Link.

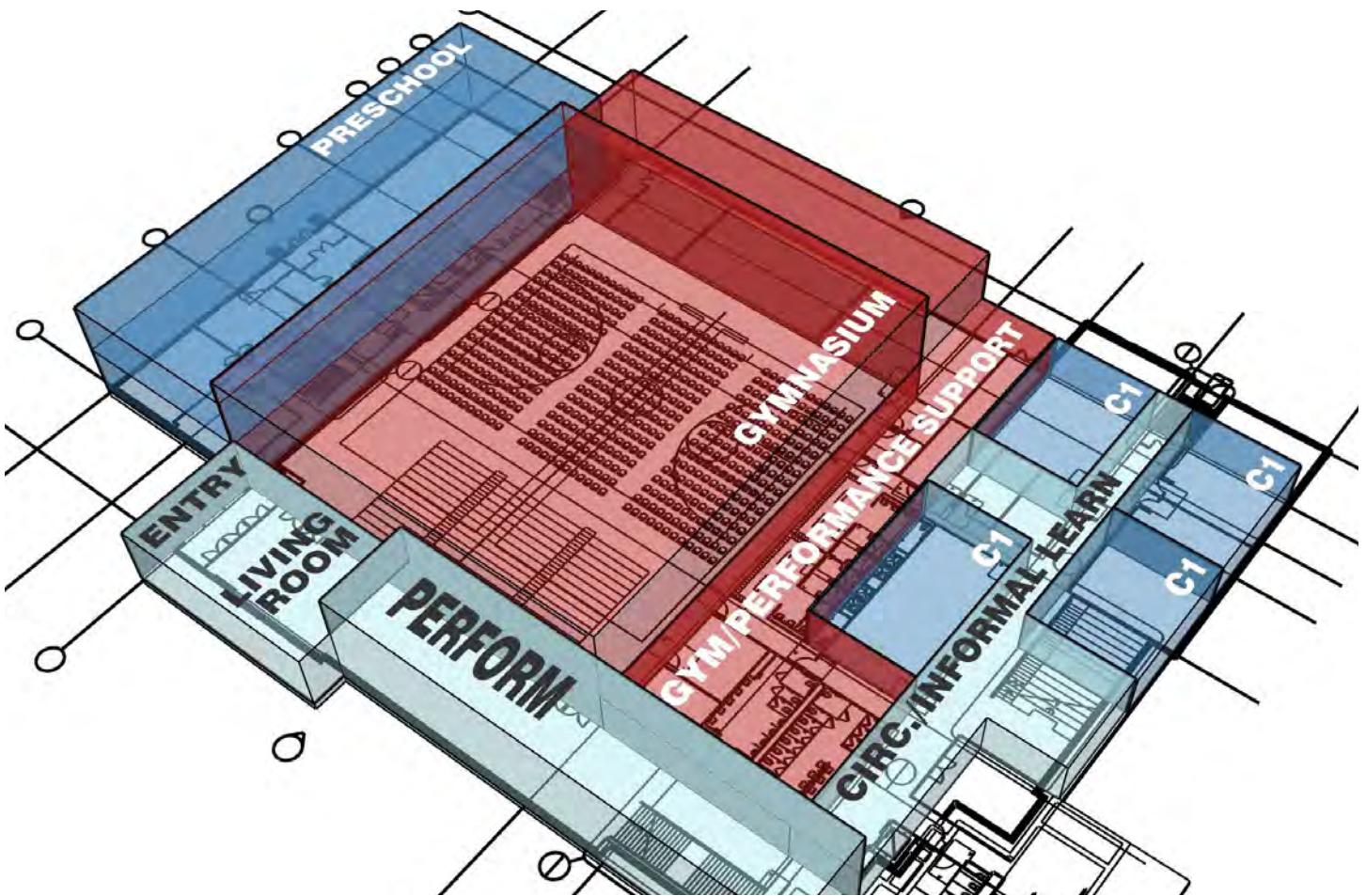


Upper Level Link

The upper level of the Link will include a new School Office and a wide commons area flanked by a variety of multi-purpose spaces. Collapsible and glass walls will provide open, collaborative and flexible space. Science, technology, math and robotics will be showcase uses of this space. Furniture variations will create social, active and quiet zones.

Architectural Design Process

- Held needs/requirements workshop with variety of stakeholders, including students, teachers, parish staff, parents and parishioners
- Conducted iterative conceptual design activities with The Cuningham Group and Opus
- Discussed new space design details (e.g., STEM/robotics, athletics, performing arts, youth/young adult, weddings, video production, nursery)
- Reviewed options and made initial construction decisions (e.g., exterior architecture, gym/stage size, secure entrance)



Next Steps

- 1 Gather bids and update estimates
- 2 Review floor plan drafts with school and parish staff
- 3 Resume fundraising efforts



OLG Bulletin Supporters

We would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation for all our bulletin supporters listed on our website at www.olgparish.org/bulletins.

Please consider these businesses and individuals when you may need their services.

Thank You!

Our sincere thanks and gratitude extended to the following faithful parishioners who shared their time and talents for our campaign.

The AOM Capital Campaign parish team included:

Kevin and Patty Gilligan (Co-Chair Couple),
Doug and Cindy Fulton (Co-Chair Couple),
Father Kevin Finnegan, Maureen Trenary,
Deacon Bob Durham, Chip and Mary Kay Fuhrman,
Bill Dubbs and Marcia Evans, Jim and Amy Clancy,
Dan and Katy Farley, Donna Ramsay, Mike Halloran,
Shari Rogalski, Steve Bonello and Jon Cassady.

Giving

We are grateful that since February 1, 2020 and during these unprecedented times with COVID-19, we've received over 50 new donor pledges and revenue totaling over \$850,000. Yes, we are still accepting pledges and donations to the Advancing Our Mission Campaign. Visit www.olgparish.org/aom-donate to make your pledge today.

