ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

“A Beacon of Light for the City of Indianapolis”

Preserving our Heritage... Inspiring Hope
Capital Campaign for St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church

+ Spire Restoration
+ New Parish Hall
+ Office Renovation
+ Rectory Renovation
WHERE HERITAGE AND HOPE MEET

OUR HERITAGE

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church was founded in 1837 making it the oldest Catholic Church in the city of Indianapolis. Located in the heart of downtown, St. John’s is a Beacon of Light to the city with the church’s historic spires standing prominently in the Indianapolis skyline. St. John’s serves as a witness to spiritual values in a secular world to a diverse community of parishioners, friends and visitors, including professionals working in the city, downtown residents, IUPUI students, convention and event attendees and our homeless neighbors. Our rich heritage includes:

- Formed Catholic Education in the City with both a Boys and Girls school,
- Service to those wounded in WWII with opening temporary hospitals to house soldiers wounded by the war,
- Housed the Tribunal and was the center for Diocesan work from 1878-1892,
- Hosted Super Bowl in 2012 welcoming thousands into the church, and
- Suffered from an Arson Fire in 2013.

OUR HOPE

Over the past 10 years, St. John’s parish has grown from 211 families in 2010 to 1,502 families in 2019. We have welcomed 235 catechumens and candidates into the church and celebrated 530 weddings (including those scheduled through the end of 2020).

We are a growing parish. Worship and celebration of the Sacraments form the core of parish life and gives us the grace for our light to shine outward in ministry. Parish ministries currently involve:

- Evangelization - hosts ministries such as Tap into the Spirit
- Faith Formation - hosts bible studies to deepen our Catholic Faith
- Discipleship - host fall series and quarterly meetings on forming ourselves as Missionary Disciples
- Mens and Womens Groups - helps form men and women of the parish into the person God created them to be, in His image and likeness
- Young Adult Ministry - helps build community and form young adults to be life long Catholics
- Family Catechesis - helps to form our families as the domestic church
- Small Group Book Studies - helps deepen our faith as well as build up community within the parish
- Adoration - helps keep our community centered on Christ
- Haiti Ministry - helps serve the poorest of the poor in our sister parish in Haiti
- Garden Door Ministry - helps serve those in need locally in downtown Indianapolis

As an active and growing parish, our facilities are in heavy daily use. We must ensure the health of our current facilities and plan for optimally suited spaces to support our growing church. For this purpose, we are launching Preserving our Heritage… Inspiring Hope – an initiative to raise $3.5 million in support of the following plans for St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. We hope you will take the time to review these plans and consider a gift to this worthy initiative for our city, our Catholic community, and our parish family.
A GROWING PARISH IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN

# OF INDIVIDUAL PARISHIONERS (2014-2019)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Individuals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1,428</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>1,708</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>2,013</td>
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<td>2017</td>
<td>2,018</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>2,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>2,502</td>
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</tbody>
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PARISH AGE DEMOGRAPHICS

- Ages 75+, 1%
- Ages 18-35, 55%
- Ages 36-50, 12%
- Ages 51-74, 11%
- Ages 0-17, 15%

ST. JOHN GROWTH AT A GLANCE  - Data based on Demographics from September 2019

# of Individuals
- 2014 = 1,428 individuals
- 2015 = 1,708 individuals
- 2016 = 2,013 individuals
- 2017 = 2,018 individuals
- 2018 = 2,200 individuals
- 2019 = 2,502 individuals

# of Families
- 2010 = 211 families
- 2011 = 272 families
- 2012 = 433 families
- 2013 = 681 families
- 2014 = 917 families
- 2015 = 1,100 families
- 2016 = 1,278 families
- 2017 = 1,262 families
- 2018 = 1,342 families
- 2019 = 1,502 families

Parishioner Age Demographics
- Children (Ages 0-17) = 15% of Parish
  - Ages 0-6 (10%)
  - Ages 7-10 (3%)
  - Ages 11-13 (1%)
- Young Adults (Ages 18-35) = 55% of Parish
  - Ages 18-24 (14%)
  - Ages 25-35 (41%)
  - 902 are Single
  - 271 are Married
  - 199 are Married with Kids
- Ages 36-50 = 12% of Parish
- Ages 51-74 = 11% of Parish
- Ages 75 and older = 1% of Parish

Families Living in Downtown Indianapolis
- 2010 = 37 families
- 2018 = 534 families
- 2019 = 570 families

“My great hope for the future of St. John’s is that we will continue to be a beacon of light, reflecting Christ Jesus, in the heart of our growing city! With consistent growth in the downtown area and wonderful growth in our parish over the past ten years, we can only imagine what more God has in store for St. John’s. We must be forward thinking and well prepared for future growth, while trusting in God’s Providence for us.” – Father Rick Nagel, Pastor of St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
1. **RESTORATION OF CHURCH SPIRES - In Progress!**
   
   St. John’s spires are a landmark for the City of Indianapolis pointing those who pass by toward Heaven. Included in this Capital Campaign is the restoration of our historic spires. In a rapidly growing secular city, the spires point all people back to the Sacred.

2. **RENOVATION OF PARISH OFFICES (LOWER LEVEL) FOR CHILDREN’S CATECHESIS**

   The St. John’s Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program is rapidly growing. The program is currently using all open spaces available in the parish office lower level. This renovation will retrofit the existing space for better utilization to allow for future growth and claim additional areas currently used for storage, maintenance and Garden Door Ministry.

3. **RENOVATION OF PARISH OFFICES (FIRST AND SECOND FLOOR)**

   As the parish grows and ministry increases there is a greater need for more office and meeting space for the St. John Ministry Team. The first and second floor of the parish office would be renovated for ministry team office space as well as additional meeting spaces and conference rooms.

4. **ST. JOHN’S GARDEN DOOR MINISTRY**

   As St. John’s Garden Door Ministry continues to grow, the need for dedicated space to serve our neighbors in downtown Indianapolis is of primary importance. This campaign includes funds dedicated to help relocate the Garden Door Ministry to a new downtown site or a mobile unit to better serve those in need.

5. **NEW PARISH HALL FOR CATECHESIS, FORMATION & SOCIALS**

   Currently, there is no permanent parish hall located at St. John’s. As the parish continues to grow, space to host parish events and large gatherings is essential which includes catechesis, missionary disciple formation, faith formation and socials.

6. **RECTORY RENOVATION - FATHER NAGEL’S HOME**

   Father Rick Nagel’s home will undergo a renovation on the west end of the second floor of the parish office. There is no memory of the last update of the priest living space.

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**PILLARS OF RENEWAL - INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE**

- Preserving our Heritage... Inspiring Hope
St. John’s spires are a landmark for the City of Indianapolis pointing those who pass by toward Heaven. Included in this Capital Campaign is the restoration of our historic spires. In a rapidly growing secular city, the spires point all people back to the Sacred.

**COST: $1,200,000 - Completed!**

From some vantage points in Indianapolis, the St. John’s church spires can be seen for miles. The spires are arguably the most visible outward sign of God in the City of Indianapolis. Our spires require prompt attention – with copper displaced and needing repair, deterioration of wood decking and substrate underneath, and water infiltration issues that cause concerns about safety and damage to the church’s interior. Help us restore and preserve our spires that point those who pass by daily toward Heaven. The spires were built in 1893 and have never been restored. Help us leave a legacy for the next 100 years!
The St. John’s Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Program is rapidly growing. The program is currently using all open spaces available in the parish office lower level. This renovation will retrofit the existing space for better utilization to allow for future growth and claim additional areas currently used for storage, maintenance and Garden Door Ministry.

**COST: $250,000**

St. John’s Religious Education program is growing rapidly with the increase of children in our parish (see chart below). The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) Program has grown so much that all hallways, corners and spaces of the rectory lower level are used for this ministry. A component of the program is forming the full family. Thus, while the children are in religious education, the parents attend an adult catechesis session on how to live the faith as the domestic church. We currently don’t have space to support this need. These space challenges certainly call for a re-imagined look at how the lower level of the rectory can be better utilized to serve the program needs. **The plans include a renovation of existing catechesis rooms and repurposing of half of the floor which is currently used for maintenance, storage, and for the Garden Door Ministry.** Plans also include plumbing, electrical, heating and air upgrades where needed.

“As one of the first families to start the beginning of the “St. John’s baby boom”, we were praying for some sort of children’s program that would help form the faith of our children. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd has been an answer to that prayer! It is a wonderful Montessori-based program that introduces children to different Bible stories, liturgical living, and invites them to have their own encounters with God through quiet, contemplative work. Our children have learned so much, as have we!”

-Lindsey & Scott Knust, St. John Parishioner with 4 kids enrolled in CGS Program

“The CGS method allows adults to work along side the child, as we are all children of God. It has been humbling, and I’ve learned so much being in front of God and the children this way as a catechist in Level II of the program. To watch them come alive in front of Jesus’ words is powerful. This is even more true for me also as a parent of children in CGS. Watching my daughter light up during Mass as she makes a connection (like the color of the priests vestments that day), or singing “Alleluia!” at home, or the profound, joyful silence she has after time in the atrium are all humble, beautiful moments of His Presence.”

-Caitlin & Mark Bedwell, St. John Parishioner with 3 kids enrolled in CGS Program

**CATECHESIS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

2017-2018 = 30 Children in Religious Education  
2018-2019 = 40 Children in Religious Education  
2019-2020 = 49 Children in Religious Education  
**63% growth increase from 2017-2020.**

**PROJECTED GROWTH**

2022-2023 = 102 Children in Religious Education

**INFANT/CHILDREN BAPTISMS**

2017 = 43 children  
2018 = 62 children  
2019 = 56 children
As the parish grows and ministry increases there is a greater need for more office and meeting space for the St. John Ministry Team. The first and second floor of the parish office would be renovated for ministry team office space as well as additional meeting spaces and conference rooms.

COST: $200,000

Portions of our office/rectory building were constructed in 1863. With our growing parish population, we hold numerous meetings, faith formation classes, and wedding preparation sessions in this building. It houses our offices, the pastor’s residence, and the St. John Paul II Adoration Chapel. While we have made the best use of the facility within the current configuration, the rectory remains underutilized and inefficient.

The first floor offices are currently used by the ministry team. The renovation plans call for repurposing these rooms into meeting spaces. Our need for additional meeting rooms for small group faith formation, for parish council commissions, baptism preparation, marriage preparation, spiritual direction and more continues to be a challenge for the parish. Currently there are only two conference rooms in the St. John’s Parish Office. The renovation allows for additional small meeting spaces in addition to the conference rooms.

The renovation plan also calls for some ministry team offices to move up to the second floor on the east side of the building, with the exception of an administrative assistant who would be on the first floor to welcome guests into the parish office for meetings. St. John Music Director and choir rehearsal space would also remain on the first floor.
As St. John’s Garden Door Ministry continues to grow, the need for dedicated space to serve our neighbors in downtown Indianapolis is of primary importance. This campaign includes funds dedicated to help relocate the Garden Door Ministry to a new downtown site or a mobile unit to better serve those in need.

COST: $50,000

For the past several years the Garden Door Ministry has served as a great light for our homeless neighbors in downtown Indianapolis providing for their needs both physically and spiritually. The Garden Door Ministry is located inside the parish office and utilizes the front door of the parish office. Garden Door storage space is also a challenge as the ministry takes up one office space for meal prep and serving and an additional storage room in the parish office basement. As the ministry has grown (seeing on average 140 people per day), our parish continues to struggle with keeping up with the needs of our neighbors who come to our door and use of space efficiently in the office to both serve our homeless neighbors and our parishioners who come to the door for meetings. This past year we had to discontinue the use of clothing at the Garden Door due to the high demand and stress put on volunteers, which called us to take a step back and re-evaluate the Garden Door location and take it to prayer about where God may be calling this ministry in the future.

Our commitment to care for the poor is a priority for St. John’s! As we evaluate the future operations of Garden Door, we will explore opportunities to house the Garden Door Ministry offsite in the downtown area or via a mobile unit that is able to travel around as needed. This would be similar to a food truck but would be outfitted to meet the needs of the Garden Door Ministry. This would allow St. John’s to be involved and guide the Garden Door Ministry but would move the ministry outside of the parish office and allow the function of the front door to be used for welcoming parishioners and guests into the parish office for meetings, baptism classes, marriage preparation, etc.

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” - Matthew 25:40
Currently, there is no permanent parish hall located at St. John’s. Our facilities planning process was launched due to a pressing need for a parish gathering space. Since that time, we have been blessed to enter into a three-year lease agreement that provides us a dedicated space on the first floor of the Pan Am building across Georgia Street. This provides a short-term solution. Looking to the future, we remain committed to ultimately creating a parish hall on site. The hall will provide a space for us to host parish gatherings and events.

The need for a dedicated gathering space is important as we continue to foster faith formation, hospitality and community within our parish. Throughout the year, we place tents in our parking lot to accommodate larger parish gatherings of 100+ people. The parish hall will be vital for gatherings of our men’s and women’s groups for faith formation, missionary discipleship series, our RCIA Program, young adult socials, faith formation events and fellowship gatherings.

Featuring exposed brick on two sides and located between the church and rectory/parish offices, the hall will seat approximately 150 people at tables and 250 at chairs. **This space will be vital to supporting faith formation for our growing parish and to extending hospitality within our city.**
Father Rick Nagel’s home will undergo a renovation on the west end of the second floor of the parish office. There is no memory of the last update of the priest living space.

COST: $100,000

The other half of the second floor of the St. John’s rectory is dedicated living space for the pastor, Father Rick Nagel. This renovation includes new paint, carpet and flooring throughout as well as plumbing, electrical, heating and air upgrades as needed. The space is separated from the parish offices on the second floor by a locked door which provides Father Nagel with privacy.
Included in the Capital Campaign for St. John the Evangelist is a **stretch goal of $500,000** that would allow us to do additional renovations to the rectory. **These include the renovation of the third floor (top floor of the rectory) as well as donating 10% of funds raised to caring for the poor both locally and abroad.**

The third floor renovation would move Father Nagel’s living quarters up to this floor, allowing his living space on the second floor to be utilized for additional office space for the ministry team as well more meeting space. This would help equip St. John’s to be better prepared for future growth with more meeting space availability as well as living space on the third floor for an associate pastor.
ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

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