

OUR FAMILY OUR FAITH
OUR FUTURE



Campaign Corner

Our Progress Report

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Why So Big?

You may be wondering about the size of the proposed church - that it seems out of proportion of our current Mass attendance and parish population. Several factors play into account why the proposed church is larger than our current one: the projected growth of Catholics in the Atlanta area and estimated increased ratio of parishioners to priests in the Archdiocese as a result of an increase in area Catholics and the number of retiring priests.

Catholic Growth

Based on the 2010 census, the Archdiocese has provided data on the increase of Catholics in the metro Atlanta area comparing 2000 to 2010 and has projected a 11-14% growth by the year 2020. The number of Catholics in the Archdiocese of Atlanta, currently 882,191 is expected to reach over 1,000,000 by 2020 and 1,250,000 by 2035.

All Saints draws from 15 zip codes and those 15 show a projected increase as well. The demographic of our church parish shows 43% of our parishioners are between the ages 24 and 59. With the observed influx in parish neighborhoods of young families moving in, the potential for growth in our parish would indicate that All Saints could experience a mirrored growth to that of the Archdiocese.

To view the data we are referencing, go to the Archdiocese of Atlanta website www.archatl.com, under *Offices* go to *Planning and Research* and you will see *Geo-Demographic Reports* on the left side of the page.

Priest Ratios

The scope of this building project is also due in part to the Archbishop's request that churches in the Archdiocese begin to plan accordingly for the

shortage of priests that we are beginning to see. This is a two prong issue: 1) more Catholics are moving into the Archdiocese and 2) the number of retiring priests is greater than the number of priests in the seminaries. This does not mean less men are entering the priesthood, it means that we are not seeing the accelerated growth in priesthood vocations to match the number of priests eligible for retirement in the

Archdiocese. Recently, the Archdiocese had to bring in three religious orders to fill this gap: The Franciscans at Holy Cross, the Jesuits at St. Thomas More the Dominican's at Lady of Lourdes and the Legionaries of Christ at St. Brendan's. Also this year, it is the first time the Archdiocese assigned one pastor for two churches - Queen of Angels and St. Joseph. Compared to other dioceses in the United States, Atlanta currently is adequately staffed by priests, but we are beginning to experience the increased ratio of parishioner to priest. For example, in 1975 there were 100,000 Catholics and 90 priests - a 1,100 to 1 ratio. Today, we have 882,191 Catholics and 250 priests - a 3,500 to 1 ratio. Each year at Easter, the Archdiocese of Atlanta welcomes approximately 2,000 new Catholics into the church. We will see that, new members entering the faith along with the projected growth of Catholics in the area, will further increase this ratio.



All Saints parishioners are very fortunate to have six Masses every weekend and three daily Masses. This is due in part because Monsignor Fennessy has agreed to help us in his retirement. It is anticipated that, at some point, we will not be able to continue this current practice due to a predicted decrease in the number of resident priests. This combined with a growing demographic, new businesses and housing will lead to a higher attendance at fewer Masses. It is with these facts that we are building a church to hold more members of our parish.

