



SHARED VISION

A FUTURE FLOURISHING
IN FAITH, KNOWLEDGE & SERVICE

VISITATION BELIEVES

Visitation Parish believes, although belief requires an expression. A word for expressed belief is “mission” and through better than one hundred years a very consequential part of Visitation Parish’s mission has been its elementary school.

Our school continues to educate the young people of our parish and set their lives on a gospel course. We live in a society that grows more spiritually myopic even as it technologically advances. An institution is needed to bring Catholic Christian values to contemporary learning and ethics. Our school is that institution for children in this part of the city. I believe that the mission of our school is more vital than ever before.

In order to serve that mission, some of the foremost facts we must face are changes erupting around us in family life, the art of education as it accommodates emerging technology, and the aging of our building.

If we are to sponsor a robust school, we are faced with renovations that correspond to contemporary educational standards. Also, this parish community has plainly told us it wants to establish an early childhood center. The demand has been tested and found to be overwhelming.

In recent months we have avidly worked with Hollis + Miller, one of the leading regional education architects. We have a plan of school progress broadly outlined on these pages. I ask you to review this material and convey your willingness to support the program.

Thank you for your consideration and for sharing your thoughts with us. This plan is an important investment in the future of our children and our community. It will help us cultivate futures flourishing in faith, knowledge and service. Our Visitation legacy is rich in accomplishment. This school building campaign is part of why our future will be no less fruitful.

In Christ, the source of all blessing, I am,



Msgr. Brad Offutt, Pastor
Visitation Parish



FOR I KNOW THE PLANS
I HAVE FOR YOU...
PLANS TO GIVE YOU
HOPE AND
A FUTURE.



SHARED VISION

A FUTURE FLOURISHING IN FAITH, KNOWLEDGE & SERVICE

In recent years, the long-established neighborhoods surrounding Visitation Parish and School have enjoyed an influx of residents, including young families.

Developers have invested to the north and east of Visitation with retail shops, restaurants, apartment and condo buildings, the library and grocery store. Additional plans are underway for more commercial and multi-story housing in this area.

With these factors in mind, the parish was proactive in planning for future growth and demand for school enrollment. In 2020, an apartment building on Baltimore Avenue immediately to the north of the school building, was purchased for future development.

A parish- and school-wide assessment in 2021 indicated that the school has potential for a robust future, and enrollment appears to be trending up for the coming school year.

IMAGINING AN EXPANDED & RENOVATED VISITATION SCHOOL CAMPUS

The parish retained Hollis + Miller Architects, a firm exclusively dedicated to education design and the future of learning environments, to develop a Master Plan for the school campus.

After careful review of the Plan and discernment by our various councils and committees, Visitation is looking to parishioners for their thoughts about the proposed campus improvements. Rozanne Prather Consulting, an experienced fundraising and development firm in Kansas City, is leading the parish in a feasibility study to gather this valuable feedback and to determine levels of support if a campaign were launched in the coming 12 months.



ENVISIONING OUR FUTURE

To plan for future growth and sustainability of a vibrant Visitation church and school, last year our parishioners were invited to assess our challenges and opportunities. Hollis + Miller Architects responded with a Master Plan that is divided into phases. Please consider the following:

Phase I

- **An expansive renovation of Visitation School** which includes modernized interior finishes, technology and security upgrades, and updates to major building systems such as electrical, plumbing, window replacements, roof restoration, and HVAC. This phase will also include improvements to the playground and parking areas.

\$7,450,000

Phase II

- **Construction of a new 3-story school building** would accommodate a new Early Childhood Center and several, yet-to-be determined, school grades. The building would be erected on the site of the apartment building immediately north of the school and include a long-awaited kitchen and cafeteria, plus much-needed storage areas.

\$9,478,000

Total for Phases I & II \$16,928,000

- **Additionally, a renovation would ensue of the former Kindergarten rooms below the church** as a multi-purpose center for parish activities. The renovated space may be used for a variety of activities such as parish retreats and workshops, catechetical, and recreational activities, and meeting areas for parish groups. The timeline and costs for this project have not yet been determined.

It is anticipated that the above projects can be timed and implemented with minimal disruption to students and will not require relocation during construction.

VISIONARY

IMAGINE A NEW & RENOVATED VISITATION SCHOOL & PARISH ACTIVITY AREA

These features* are among the desired benefits of a new and renovated school and parish activity area.

Visitation School Renovation (Phase 1) and 3-Story Addition including Early Childhood Center (Phase 2):

- Innovative classroom design for student-centered, collaborative, and inquiry-based learning
- Flexible learning spaces for new instructional approaches
- Launch of a year-round fee-based Early Childhood Center (daycare-preschool) to meet demands for quality early learning and to develop a "feeder" system for prospective Visitation School students
- Enhanced courtyard and outdoor learning spaces
- Technology upgrades
- Playground enhancements
- Maker Space
- Commercial kitchen and cafeteria
- Media center & library upgrades
- New interior finishes: ceilings, walls, flooring, casework and hardware
- LED Lighting + natural light + new electrical system
- High performance, energy-efficient HVAC System
- Secure facilities and play spaces to support safety protocols
- Renovated restrooms
- Energy-efficient windows and blinds for light control
- Roof restoration
- Parking improvements

Renovation of former Kindergarten Classrooms to a serve as a multi-purpose activity area below the church (Phase 2):

- Fresh paint
- Updated furnishings
- Welcoming gathering space for parish groups, retreats, workshops, meetings, and catechetical and recreational activities.

*Photos are for illustration only; architectural renderings will be commissioned if the parish opts to move forward with a capital campaign.



VISITATION SCHOOL OVERVIEW



ACCREDITED

Visitation School is a member of the National Catholic Educational Association and the Missouri Chapter of the National Federation of Nonpublic School State Accrediting Associations.

AT A GLANCE

- 450** K-8 students
- 55** Faculty & Staff
- 96%** Percent Catholic
- 13:1** Student to Staff Ratio



INCLUSIVE

As a proud partner with the Foundation for Inclusive Religious Education (FIRE), and as an inclusive educational community, Visitation School strives to meet the needs of all learners.

ANNUAL SCHOOL BUDGET: ABOUT \$3.26M



PTO's
Contribution

Church's
Contribution

Tuition,
Adjusted Tuition
+ Fees



STEWARDSHIP

Visitation students Serve, Give, Love. They practice stewardship through community service activities, school-wide projects, and our Junior Board.

GROWING IN COMMUNITY. BUILDING VISITATION.

1911

Visitation Church holds its first Mass on January 1st in a church built at Main and what is now 51st Terrace. The cornerstone for the current church is set in 1915 and dedicated in 1917.

1921

Land is purchased to build Visitation School. Soon after, more land is acquired for the gym and playground. Other school additions are built over the years.

1947

A vibrant Visitation Church and neighborhood growth call for an even larger school. Ground is broken on an 18-classroom Visitation School.



PROUD TRADITION. BRIGHT FUTURE.

"As St. John Paul II noted, 'Faith and reason are the two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth.' We are blessed to have Visitation School showering these fruits of knowledge on so many generations in our midst."

- Kevin Connor, Visitation parishioner and graduate of Visitation School ('77)



1973

The parish hall, originally added as a chapel in 1953, is remodeled in 1973 and converted to Tighe Hall. In 1974, a complete renovation of the neo-classic church is transformed to 17th Century Spanish style.

2000

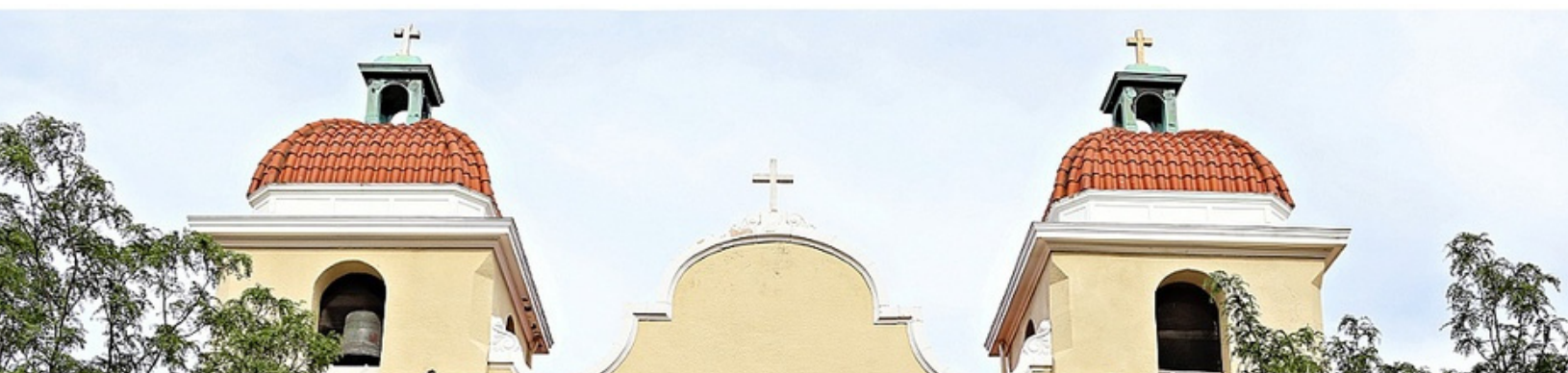
Visitation School undergoes renovation and expansion for three classes per grade. To accommodate, Kindergarten classrooms are added in the basement as part of the church and Tighe Hall renovation in 2004.

2004

A major expansion and renovation is completed at Visitation Church. A larger worship area makes it possible for parishioners, who for years worshipped in either Tighe Hall or the Main Church, to now celebrate together.

2006 OUR MOST RECENT CAMPAIGN

Our community generously funded the 2004 renovation with a debt reduction campaign in 2006. A campaign to expand and renovate the school campus would be the first since the most recent effort was completed in 2010.



LET'S VISIT!

We value your thoughts and input on the future of Visitation Parish and School.



visitation.org



megan@church.visitation.org



816.381.6911

