

# St Ann Parish – 2023 Parish Survey



St Ann Catholic Church

## Background

Have you noticed lately? St Ann Parish (Clayton) is growing at a rapid pace. Since 2001 when the current church opened and was dedicated, our parish has grown from 500 families to over 3,600 families currently! Yes, you read that correctly – over 3,600 families and more than 10,000 people! That is A LOT of brothers and sisters in Christ!

Based on current projections for the growth of Johnston County, and specifically Clayton, our parish is projected to have more than 5,000 families by 2026, and over 6,000 families by 2030.

Given this tremendous growth, it is obvious that we need to develop a plan to minister to all of our brothers and sisters in Christ. To do that, we HAVE to expand our facilities. For instance – did you know we currently have over 600 children in Faith Formation classes every weekend? Given the restrictions on classroom space in our Learning Centers – there are 4 sessions of Faith Formation every week. If you've tried to schedule a ministry meeting recently – you likely found out how limited our space availability is!

So – How can you help?

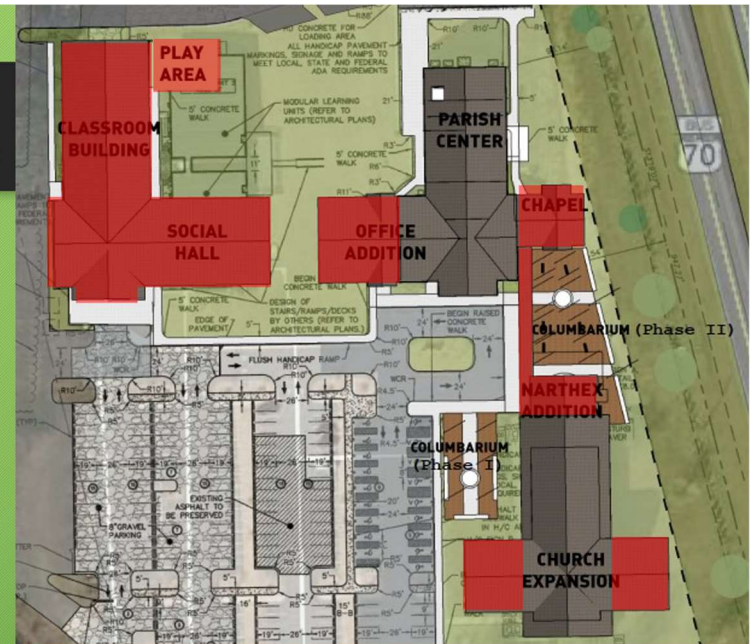
Fortunately, we developed a masterplan for our campus to meet this growing need (Graphic to the right). This masterplan was approved by the Diocese in 2020! The masterplan includes many new and/or enlarged facilities, each of which are described in brief below. As you explore this list, pray about which facility(s) we need first, second, third, etc. and provide us your feedback on that prioritization of facilities by filling out the survey.

## Registered Family Growth



## St Ann Catholic Church (Clayton)

## 2020 Masterplan



Facility need	Why it's a priority
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Additional Land</b></p>	<p>St. Ann currently owns approximately 15 acres of land. Public agencies regulate the amount of land that can be developed within a given parcel due to considerations of the natural environment (e.g., impacts to wetlands) and human environment (e.g., setbacks from the public right-of-way and adjacent properties). As such, there is a limit to how much infrastructure can be placed on our current property. Some facility needs are especially demanding of land area; among these, parking may be the most notable, as 1 acre of land is generally required for every 100 parking spaces added.</p> <p>Recent major developments in the vicinity of St. Ann—such as the American Leadership Academy, the Amazon facility, and numerous new residential neighborhoods—underscore the fact that the “sleepy” US 70 Bus. corridor is waking up. Continued development nearby is expected, and, with that, the value of land will continue to rise. In just the past 3 or 4 years, we have seen land values adjacent to the church climb from around <i>\$11K per acre</i> to more than <i>\$25K per acre</i>.</p> <p>The good news is that there may be an opportunity to purchase land from three adjacent property owners in the near future. These tracts of land comprise 65, 16, and 1.5 acres, respectively. Because the window of opportunity for purchasing any of the adjacent tracts will be limited in duration, it is vital St. Ann take the necessary steps now to act when given the chance. If we miss these opportunities when they present themselves, there is no guarantee they will come back to us again anytime soon, and future expansion projects will be hampered as a result.</p> <p><b><i>Cost considerations: using a \$25K/acre cost, the 3 tracts above would require \$1.6M, \$400K, and \$38K, respectively.</i></b></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Additional Parking</b></p>	<p>There are currently 320 parking spaces (including 22 handicap accessible spaces) on the St. Ann campus. At peak times (e.g., the evening of Ash Wednesday and the Sunday AM Masses during faith formation), available parking is grossly inadequate for current needs, resulting in vehicles parked along the main driveway, access aisle near the shed, and on the shoulder of US 70 Bus. This parking impedes two-way traffic flow into and within the campus, causing backups onto US 70 Bus. that pose safety risks due to the high-speed nature of the highway and the obstruction of sightlines among drivers trying to exit the church property. There are also times (e.g., the Saturday 4:30 PM Vigil Mass) when the number of handicap parking spaces is insufficient to accommodate the number of eligible visitors who would utilize them if available.</p> <p>As more people attend our Masses and participate in parish life—and as additional facilities are added to the campus—more parking will be required.</p> <p><b><i>Cost considerations: current parking costs are on the order of \$3K per space, or \$300K for every 100 spaces added.</i></b></p>

Facility need	Why it's a priority
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Expanded Church and Narthex</b></p>	<p>St. Ann is currently offering 8 Masses every weekend, which is more than nearly any other parish in eastern North Carolina. Considering the limited number and availability of priests across the diocese, it is possible—and perhaps even likely—that fewer weekend Masses will be offered here in the future. Overflowing crowds are not uncommon at certain Masses like Ash Wednesday, the early Christmas Eve Vigil, and the 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM, and 12:30 PM Sunday weekend Masses, even with visitors utilizing metal chairs and the narthex as much as possible. The church was designed so an additional 600 seats—equal to our current seating capacity—could be added by expanding to the right and left of the altar.</p> <p>The narthex is the church entrance/lobby area, and it is routinely cramped with standing visitors during overcrowded Masses, which restricts passage to the restrooms and poses a safety concern in the event of an emergency requiring a prompt evacuation. In addition, back-to-back weekend and special Masses bring congestion not only to the narthex itself but also to the covered area and sidewalk beyond the main doors. Considering the ever-increasing demand at peak Masses and the prospect of fewer Mass options in the future, expanding the seating capacity in the sanctuary and providing a larger narthex and entrance area is a clear necessity to accommodate our growing parish.</p> <p><b>Cost considerations: the expansion of the sanctuary and narthex is anticipated to cost approximately \$3M.</b></p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>Day Chapel</b></p>	<p>A <i>day chapel</i> is a separate church building, or separate space within a church building, that serves as a miniature sanctuary. Day chapels have become central features of many larger Catholic parish campuses because of the numerous benefits they can provide, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allowing more frequent Eucharistic adoration.</li> <li>• Accommodating multiple events (e.g., a wedding and a small funeral) concurrently.</li> <li>• Providing more intimate space for smaller events (e.g., daily Mass and small weddings or funerals) or personal prayer.</li> <li>• Providing overflow seating for the main church building during peak Masses.</li> <li>• Serving as an educational model for instructing groups (e.g., RCIA and faith formation classes) about key elements of a Catholic church during times when the main church is not available.</li> </ul> <p>The St. Ann master plan includes a day chapel located on the US 70 Bus. side of the Parish Center. The current vision is for it to offer a seating capacity of 100 and be directly connected to the Parish Center lobby. With its ability to accommodate regular adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the day chapel has a reputation of being a campus feature that has spurred intense spiritual growth in many parishes—spiritual growth that has manifested itself in markedly greater participation and investment in all aspects of parish life.</p> <p><b>Cost considerations: anticipated costs for construction of the day chapel are on the order of \$1.2M.</b></p>

Facility need	Why it's a priority
<b>Permanent Learning Center Building</b>	<p>The mobile units that comprise the St. Ann Learning Center were brought onsite and made operational in 2016, providing a huge addition to campus that allowed faith formation classes and ministry meetings to be held <i>onsite</i> for the first time since the church opened in 2001. The Learning Center classrooms are heavily used by our parish family both on the weekend and during the week. Faith formation classes held Saturday evening, during two sessions on Sundays, and Wednesday evenings completely fill each building. In addition, ministries regularly utilize the Learning Center for meetings throughout the week and weekend—so much so, it is often difficult to find an available room. Hundreds of parishioners pass through these units each week to share the faith and minister to one another and to the community.</p> <p>At the time of their setup in 2016, the mobile units were planned as a <i>temporary facility</i> with an expected service life of 10 – 15 years. Today, they are in need of a new roof (estimated at \$250K), and each of the 14 HVAC units are likely to need replacement within the next 5 years (estimated at \$150K total). In addition to these big-ticket items, smaller maintenance issues continue to arise, and the “band-aid” measures to address them translate to a steady drain on financial resources.</p> <p>The masterplan includes a new permanent, 2-story Learning Center that would double the capacity of the current building. Not only would this additional space greatly benefit the faith formation program and current parish ministries, it would also provide meeting space for future ministries. This project could also include a new larger Social Hall for major parish events that would better serve our growing community.</p> <p><b>Cost considerations: the anticipated costs for a new Learning Center facility are on the order of \$6 – 8M.</b></p>
<b>Consolidated Office Space</b>	<p>St. Ann is currently served by our pastor, parochial vicar, three deacons, and ten other parish staff members. An additional parish staff position or two are anticipated in the near-term, and multiple additional staff members will be needed in the future to meet the many needs of our growing parish. Today, our staff operates from offices spread among the church, the Parish Center, and the Learning Center, and there is no additional office space available to accommodate additional staff.</p> <p>A consolidated office wing attached to the Parish Center would (1) establish a centralized location from which all administrative functions could be provided, (2) maximize efficiencies among staff both in time and resources, and (3) provide a professional office environment more conducive to direct and streamlined interactions with parishioners.</p> <p><b>Cost considerations: anticipated costs for expanded office space within the Parish Center are approximately \$1.5M.</b></p>

Facility need	Why it's a priority
<b>Playground &amp; Recreational Area</b>	<p>There are many young adults and young families at St. Ann, and, collectively, they represent the future of our parish and the Church as a whole. Facilitating and encouraging engagement among parishioners in these groups is key to developing the sense of belonging and community that foster deep connection to parish life. While spiritual development and ministry activities are central, activities more recreational and social in nature provide additional avenues for connection that may be more appealing to our younger parishioners. Facilities with such appeal can bring parishioners together outside of Mass to share in fellowship, fitness, and fresh air.</p> <p>Currently, there is no designated play area for elementary-aged children, and there are no designated recreational spaces or facilities for parishioners of any age. A fenced playground area with age-appropriate equipment would provide a welcoming gathering area for families with young children. Similarly, recreational facilities (e.g., a soccer field, basketball court, or volleyball court) geared more toward teens and adults of all ages would offer a reason for parishioners to gather on campus at times other than our Masses to share in exercise and socialization. What better midweek sight to see than a vibrant St. Ann campus with parishioners sharing in outdoor play and fellowship in a safe and Catholic environment.</p> <p><b>Cost considerations: depending on location and specifics, this space could be created for approx. \$150 – 300K.</b></p>
<b>Parish Preschool Program</b>	<p>As their children's third and fourth birthdays approach, many parents explore preschool/pre-K options to prepare them for kindergarten. These options usually comprise 2- or 3-hour sessions that run 2 – 5 days per week. Following decades of steady residential growth, there is significant demand for preschool programs in Clayton, Smithfield, and the surrounding areas. While many parents turn to churches for a pre-K model that incorporates prayer, Bible stories, and basic principles of Judeo-Christian morality into their curriculum, there are currently no <i>Catholic</i> preschool options within Johnston County.</p> <p>With more than 600 school-aged children currently enrolled in our faith formation program—and with conservative estimates of 200+ children between the ages of 0 – 4 within our parish family—there is a genuine need for a pre-K program here. Because enrollment requires a monthly fee, preschool programs often operate near a break-even point, with fees and expenditures generally offsetting one another. A St. Ann preschool could offer many benefits, such as (1) an early start on Catholic formation, (2) another avenue for young families and young children to connect with one another outside of Mass, (3) another avenue for volunteer parishioners to serve our community, and (4) an opportunity to welcome parishioners and non-parishioners alike to engage more fully in parish life.</p> <p><b>Cost considerations: in addition to playground costs (~\$100K), other anticipated costs include adaptations to classrooms suitable for young children, secure ingress/egress to buildings, and safety upgrades to the restrooms.</b></p>

## Facility need

## Why it's a priority

### Private Catholic School

East-central North Carolina is a desert of sorts when it comes to Catholic schools, as there are no such schools located between Raleigh and Greenville. Aside from the few who can secure an enrollment spot within these coveted schools and commit to the long daily commute from Johnston County, a classic Catholic education is simply not an option for most parish families. Those seeking alternatives to the local public schools must choose among homeschooling, charter schools, or non-Catholic private schools.

In recent years, several parishioners have expressed interest in exploring the prospects of establishing a Catholic school here in Johnston County. A first step in this process would involve an objective market/needs assessment to consider whether a Catholic school is desired by—and could be supported by—the local community. This study would evaluate factors like demographics, growth trends, per-household income, and other local education alternatives with which a new Catholic school would need to compete. A school would need to be financially self-sustaining and operate within facilities adjacent to or within the church campus at times that are coordinated with other church functions. Historically, a K-12 school would require not only classrooms, parking, and a social gathering space (Social Hall), but also outdoor athletic fields. As such, the acquisition of adjacent land would be required to accommodate a school.

***Cost considerations: the total cost to develop a school is unknown at this time. The demand/interest in developing a school would involve a market assessment of interested families who could financially support such a school. The school would need to be financially self-supporting. Tuition costs for similar schools in the area are currently starting at approximately \$5,000/student/year, with many exceeding this figure.***

# Saint Ann Catholic Parish - 2023 Parish Survey

## Please help us identify priorities for facilities and ministries needed to help you on your Christian journey

**Please take this survey if you attend Saint Ann Church and are 18 years and older**

**Please select and rank in order the top 5 needs for Saint Ann facilities from the list below:  
With #1 being most important through #5 being 5th most important (only mark 5 out of 12)**

### Potential Facilities Needs

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| More parking / handicap parking _____          | Expand church entry hall (Narthex) _____       |
| Develop Saint Ann Pre K (3 year olds) _____    | Consolidate office space for efficiency _____  |
| Expand church to increase church seating _____ | Recreational Space / Soccer field _____        |
| Saint Ann private K-12 School _____            | Day Chapel for Mass & small celebrations _____ |
| Purchase land for future growth needs _____    | Larger learning center / more rooms _____      |
| Create Fence enclosed playground _____         | Write in _____                                 |

\* Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Are you willing to contribute financially to facilities that you have ranked as most important? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

**Please select and rank in order the top 5 needs for Saint Ann ministries from the list below:  
With #1 being most important through #5 being 5th most important (only mark 5 out of 12)**

### Potential Ministry Needs

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| More investment in music liturgy _____        | More classes for adults and seniors _____           |
| Transportation - seniors/handicapped _____    | Provide day care services _____                     |
| Add 24 Hour adoration capabilities _____      | Increase welcoming and fellowship events _____      |
| Increase in migrant ministries _____          | More youth ___ senior ___ programs _____            |
| Add Family Financial Management classes _____ | More training: ushers, readers, alter servers _____ |
| Expand Saint Ann Learning Academy _____       | Write in _____                                      |

\* Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

### More Survey questions

I normally attend Mass: Saturday \_\_\_\_\_, Sunday \_\_\_\_\_, Weekdays \_\_\_\_\_, Holy Days \_\_\_\_\_, On line \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
(time) (time)

I am a Registered member of Saint Ann Catholic Church \_\_\_\_\_ My Age - Yrs: 18 \_\_\_\_\_ 40 41 \_\_\_\_\_ 60 60 \_\_\_\_\_ Above

I prefer to donate: At Mass \_\_\_\_\_ Auto draft \_\_\_\_\_ Scheduled Draft \_\_\_\_\_ Venmo \_\_\_\_\_ Credit/Debit card \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Family Status: Single \_\_\_\_\_ Couple (no children) \_\_\_\_\_ Family with # of adults \_\_\_\_\_ and # of children \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to register with Saint Ann Catholic \_\_\_\_\_ I can be reached by: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to be involve with The International Food Festival \_\_\_\_\_ I can be reached by: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\* Thank You! Your participation in this effort to improve St. Ann Parish is appreciated \*\*\***