

St. Joseph Catholic Church

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA



OUR HISTORY

Originally founded as St. Francis de Sales Church in 1920, our parish family witnessed remarkable growth over the years. In just a few years, it became clear a larger parish would be needed to accommodate all of the families. After a generous bequest of \$125,000 from Msgr. Charles Dubois Wood, the journey began for a new parish. In October 1948, the cornerstone of St. Joseph was laid by Bishop Walsh, and dedicated the following year.

This new church has been our Catholic home for over 70 years now, and as grown and changed much like our parish family. Support from our parishioners allowed us to replace the dated organ, install beautiful stained glass windows, and add bells to our tower. These 36 bells now serve a vital part of the worship and life of the church and community.

Along with our Catholic School, St. Joseph has served the Columbia community for generations, allowing us to fulfill our duties and spread the teachings of Christ.

OUR VISION

We, the people of God in the parish of St. Joseph, are constantly attempting to become a faith community of those who, believing in Jesus, proclaim God's kingdom and share the mystery of faith by: worshipping the Father; enabling all members to grow in their relationship with each other through the Son; and, witnessing our gifts through service to others in the Holy Spirit.

While the heart of a parish is the Most Holy Eucharist, the parish family is the visible body that makes it a unique and vibrant community. Our parishioners fulfill our Catholic mission through their participation and devotion to serving both our parish and the greater community.

We have several plans to improve our parish and school and the environment they provide to our families. The Diocesan *Bicentennial Campaign* is a tremendous opportunity for our parish to come together as a family and address several of these needs.





OUR CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Both St. Joseph's and the Diocese of Charleston recognize the importance of carrying out our common mission to proclaim the Gospel in today's world. As the Diocese celebrates 200 years of prosperity in 2020, it is embarking on an unprecedented, comprehensive campaign - the *Bicentennial Campaign* - to fulfill its mission in the communities it serves.

The *Bicentennial Campaign* is an extraordinary effort designed to strengthen our existing Diocesan programs, Parishes, and Missions, while taking strides toward sustaining our Diocese into the next century. Bishop Guglielmone is dedicated to strengthening parish communities and ensuring the continued formation of our Catholic family and ministry to all South Carolinians.

St. Joseph's target is \$1,530,000 to raise in partnership with our Diocese of Charleston. This target, payable over 5 years, will be split 50% to the Diocese and 50% to our parish, providing \$765,000 to support St. Joseph's vision.

OUR NEED

\$765,000 - St. Joseph School is badly in need of repairs, upgrades and critical advanced security for our students, faculty and staff. Our parish school should provide an inviting learning environment dedicated to the success of every child while also maintaining a secure and beautiful campus. Funds will focus on three major areas:

Safety: Replacing doors and windows that no longer meet code standards and will improve safety.

Health: Removing encased asbestos in windows and flooring.

Environment: Installing new floors and counter tops in classrooms, upgrading lighting to cost-effective LED bulbs, improving various landscaping areas, and installing permanent street-front signage.

By investing in our school now, we are ensuring a strong presence in the midlands for decades to come. Our school provides an education that serves not only the children who attend it, but our entire parish family. The school campus is utilized by every ministry in our parish and its future is in all of our hands.



"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." 1 Peter 4: 10-11