

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

CARRYING ON THE TRADITION

Since 1856, Assumption Church has been an important presence in the heart of St. Paul. The generosity of parishioners for the last 165 years has enabled our church to be a downtown landmark and a strong beacon of faith, community, and service. We are privileged to be a part of the faith life of many individuals and families and are blessed to be one of the largest, most vibrant parishes in the Archdiocese. Many graces have come from this place.

The neighborhood and downtown community have changed greatly over the years. To adapt to changing times, our campus has changed as well. Now we have an opportunity to build on the generations of generosity, better meet current parish needs and plan for the future. Specifically, we want to share two main campus projects to help us remain a strong and vibrant parish:

- **Secure and Improve Parking for the Masses**
- **Restore and Reactivate our Historic School building**



Assumption Church photographed in 1964.

SECURE AND IMPROVE PARKING FOR THE MASSES

For decades, one of the most significant challenges that individuals and families face in coming to Mass is parking. In 2019, Assumption worked with Catholic Charities and the City of St. Paul and secured significant additional parking across St Joseph's Lane. We also have offered overflow parking at the Gallery Ramp. Most importantly, for over two decades, we have enjoyed 60 free weekend parking spots in the neighboring lot on the corner of Exchange and St. Peter Streets. This is thanks to the generosity of owners Doug Hoskin and St. Peter Limited Parking Partners.

We were notified of the owner's intent to sell this property at the end of 2021. Since we cannot assume a new owner would offer us those spaces, or even keep it as a parking lot, we are at risk of losing 300 parking spaces each weekend (60x5 Masses). This would be a tremendous loss for the parish. After consultation with the finance council, parish trustees and completing due diligence, we believe it's important to purchase this property. This purchase allows us to not only secure current parking but also improve and build upon it.

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SECURE AND IMPROVE PARKING FOR THE MASSES (*CONTINUED*)

Several years ago, in a defensive move, the parish purchased the retail building on the corner of St. Peter and Seventh Streets. Developers were planning a five to six story hotel-apartment building on that location. Once the retail leases expire, we will demolish the building and create additional parking. With proper trees, landscaping and fencing, the east side of our campus will not only look lovely, but people coming to Assumption will experience a greater sense of welcome, community and safety.

Finally, the chance to purchase adjacent real estate is a rare opportunity for parishes. It's a purchase that makes sense for current and future generations. While close and safe parking is one of our greatest needs, securing this adjacent land will allow future generations to adapt and plan for their ministry goals and needs.

RESTORING AND REACTIVATING OUR HISTORIC SCHOOL BUILDING

It is time to embark on extensive renovations of our historic school building. This building, located on the northwest corner of the campus, is on the National Register of Historic Places. It has not been in regular use for many years and needs significant repairs. To keep it from deteriorating further, tuckpointing, window replacement, and water repair needs to be done. The building, nevertheless, has great bones and a great history and we have a responsibility in its upkeep.

Over the last few years, working with parish leadership, we have determined that we need more meeting space than the lower church can provide. We also need to bring our faith formation and confirmation programs back to campus. For years, these programs serving hundreds of our youth, have been located at St. Mary's Catholic Church nearby in Lowertown. While we will continue to offer a shared religious education program, we only have use of St. Mary's school for one more program year. We also need space for adult spiritual and faith formation opportunities, and smaller social or fellowship occasions. Additionally, we want to make our campus more accessible, better meeting important ADA standards.

Renovation to this building will include an elevator, office space, restrooms, classrooms, kitchen and an updated mechanical and utility infrastructure. Additionally, the plans will protect the building from further deterioration and have modern, energy efficient windows. There will be significant mortar and stone repair on the exterior façade. With proper landscaping and sidewalks, this building will become an integral part of our campus experience. The goal is to accomplish all of this while maintaining the integrity of this historic gem – the second oldest building and oldest standing school in St. Paul.



Assumption's Historic School Building is pictured to the right of the original church.

Estimated Costs:	Building Demolition & Parking Lot	\$2,255,000
	Restoring the Historic School building	\$3,675,000
	Total Estimated Cost	\$5,930,000
Initial donor and parish commitments:		\$2,000,000
Through a Capital Campaign we are hoping to raise:		\$4,000,000

As Assumption moves forward with this historic opportunity, we hope that we can rely on the support of our parish community. We want to build off generosity of past parishioners and friends. With the retention of current parking and creation of additional parking to our east, and the renovation of our historic school building, we will create a campus that keeps Assumption a strong and vibrant parish for generations to come.