

What are our Spiritual and Architectural Goals?

Summary: The St. Juan Diego Parish Building Committee generated a list of Goals and Guiding Principles to help inform decisions with regard to all aspects of the building project. The Goals and Guiding Principles are divided into two sections: Spiritual Goals (to create a building that advances the spiritual and liturgical life of the parish) and the more pragmatic Architectural Goals (to create a building that supports the mission of our parish). If you have further questions, don't hesitate to contact the building committee: BC@stjuandiego.org.

Selected Guiding Resources:

"Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture and Worship"
These are the guidelines provided by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).
www.catholic-doc.org/br/files/g-stones.pdf

"The Columbia River Watershed: Caring for Creation and the Common Good"
This document is an International Pastoral Letter by the Catholic Bishops of the Region.
www.thewsc.org/files/pastoral-english.pdf

The Georgetown Center for Liturgy is an education, research, and consultation center dedicated to transforming American Catholic parishes through the liturgical renewal initiated by the Second Vatican Council.
<http://centerforliturgy.georgetown.edu/>

"Environment and Art in Catholic Worship"
Principles for those involved in preparing liturgical space, this is a predecessor to "Living Stones."
<http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/q&a/environment/environment.shtml>

"Music in Catholic Worship"
Guidelines provided by the USCCB.
<http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/current/musiccathworship.shtml>

"Catechism of the Catholic Church"
http://www.vatican.va/archive/catechism/ccc_toc.htm

Various documents, policies and procedures specific to the Archdiocese of Portland.

St. Juan Diego Parish Mission Statement, Strategic Plan documents and Parish Survey results.

SPIRITUAL GOALS

To advance the spiritual and liturgical life of the parish by creating opportunities for communal prayer, celebrations, catechesis and outreach that meet the needs of the People of God and express the active presence of God.

Liturgical Goals:

Foster "full, conscious and active" participation in the liturgical rites of the Catholic Church, including the use of art and music to proclaim the Glory of God.

Ministerial Goals:

Provide for an active ministerial life for parishioners in response to their baptismal call to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed.

Communal Goals:

Emphasize the gift of being a parish family through opportunities to living, sharing, and celebrating as a community.

Family Life Goals:

Encourage activities that attract and support families, offer a safe environment for children, and foster a sense of "extended family" among parishioners, with the inclusion of single and elderly parishioners. Deceased members of the parish family should also be remembered.

Hospitality Goals:

Demonstrate an inviting atmosphere in order to cultivate a community that is warm and welcoming; open and lively; contemplative and liturgical to parishioners, visitors and neighbors.

Environmental Goals:

Highlight our connection to God's creation through gardens and complimentary spaces which emphasize the gift of nature and our responsibility toward the environment in which we live.

(Architectural Goals on the reverse)



ARCHITECTURAL GOALS

To create a building and site that support the mission of St. Juan Diego Parish. The building(s) will advance the spiritual and liturgical life of the parish by creating opportunities for communal prayer, celebrations, catechesis and outreach that meet the needs of the People of God and express the active presence of God.

Functional Goals:

Use ideal functional relationships to guide the building planning and design

- **Connections:** Create visual and spatial connections that minimize the separation of activities while enhancing connections between the building, the site, and its users.
- **Integration:** Enhance the relationship of the Community Center, Church and other Parish buildings with the natural park-like setting of the property.

Aesthetic Goals:

The buildings, in their final form, should be timeless, enduring, beautiful and welcoming.

- **Art:** Great religious art fosters the life of prayer. Beauty is a reflection of God and “a call to transcendence.” The Church is not wedded to a single architectural or artistic form; it seeks to engage the genius of every time and place, to craft the finest praise of God from what is available. Beautiful art and architecture are acts of enculturation to enable church buildings to proclaim the creative and redemptive meaning of the Gospel in every time and place. Ideally, local artists are involved.
- **Music:** Music is an important and integral part of the St. Juan Diego Parish. The building design should encourage and accommodate a robust musical program ranging from small groups to large choirs with musical accompaniment.

Flexibility Goals:

Ensure the opportunity for future expansion without undermining the architectural integrity and intent of the building design. Create opportunities in as many spaces as possible for shared and flexible use.

Sustainability Goals:

Utilize progressive sustainable design and operational strategies to further the mission of the Catholic Church, St. Juan Diego Parish, and the environment.

- **Energy Efficiency:** Maximize the energy efficiency to reduce long-term operating costs and environmental impacts. Achieve the highest level of sustainable design appropriate to the project and budget.

Site and Circulation Goals:

The beautiful park-like setting needs to be maintained to the most reasonable extent possible, while allowing for adequate circulation, outdoor contemplative areas and, if possible, areas for large gatherings such as parish picnics. Use clear signage for building locations and activities. Ensure the site flow facilitates community following Mass. The entrance to, and exit from, the church should be a processional experience for the parishioners.

- **Security and Accessibility:** Make all areas of the site active, accessible, and secure.

Procedural Goals:

The decision-making process and the parish education component that are part of the building experience can assist the parish and its individual members to deepen their sense of Catholic identity, and as part of the community of St. Juan Diego parishioners. The process for the planning and design should be open and welcoming, with an education component, accessible status information and opportunities for input on many levels.

Budgetary Goals:

The budget is an important but changing target that will require imagination, flexibility, scheduling, accuracy, and diligence to manage.

Fundraising Goals:

Support for the church building projects will be raised from private and business sources. St. Juan Diego Parish may also pursue grants.