



# The Gospel Truth

A PUBLICATION OF ST. EUGENE CATHOLIC CHURCH • MARCH 2008

## INSIDE ...

2 .... St. Eugene Confirmation Candidates

2 .... In the Father's Footsteps XII

3 .... Pastoral Council Report

4 .... Building up a Holy Place

5 .... 50th Anniversary Series

6-7... Parish Campus Map

8 .... Lenten And Holy Week Schedule

St. Eugene Catholic Church  
 2400 West Hefner Road  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73120  
 (405) 751-7115  
 www.steugenes.org

## MORE "DON'T MISS" 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

*Dear friends in Christ,*

As we continue our celebration of our parish's golden anniversary, there are a couple of other special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary events to add to your calendar. On **April 2<sup>nd</sup>**, Michael Reardon and Patrick Lane will present the "*Gospel of John*" at our church. Michael proclaims the whole Gospel from memory, and Patrick uses sound and lighting to bring the Word of God to life in a powerful way. (Michael and Patrick presented the "*Gospel of Mark*" at our parish in April 2003 and returned to do the "*Gospel of Matthew*" in February 2005.) According to Michael, of all the Gospel productions that Patrick and he do, the "*Gospel of John*" is their best.

*Unique to John's Gospel are some of the most memorable stories in all of Sacred Scripture.* On the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Sundays in Lent we hear John's account of the woman at the well, the healing of the man born blind from birth, and the raising of Lazarus from the dead. Every Holy Thursday the Church gifts us with John's account of the Last Supper as Jesus washes his disciples' feet. Every Good Friday we listen to John's Passion account, where Jesus is in complete control of his destiny, reigning as king from the throne of the cross. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter every year we hear John's famous account of "*doubting Thomas*," and throughout the Easter

*(Continued on Page 2)*

### MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

March 4:	Chik-fil-A Night for School
Mar. 10-14:	Spring Break – School
March 13:	Monthly Leadership Night Johnnie's Night for School
March 18:	TX Roadhouse Night for School
March 20:	Holy Thursday; 7 p.m. Mass
March 21:	Good Friday; Service at 7 p.m.
March 22:	Holy Saturday; 8:30 p.m. Mass
March 23:	Easter Sunday; 8 a.m., 10 a.m., 12 p.m. (Spanish) and 5 p.m. Mass
April 2:	Michael Reardon, Gospel of John

Season, accounts from the Fourth Gospel dominate the Sunday lectionary. (The only exceptions this year are Luke's famous Emmaus account on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday and Matthew's account of the Ascension of the Lord on the 7th Sunday.) The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter is always "**Good Shepherd Sunday**" with a selection from the tenth chapter of John. This year the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter has the famous statement of Jesus to Thomas: "*I am the way, the truth and the life,*" and on the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter Jesus promises to send the Advocate, the Spirit of truth, so that we will not be left as orphans. Pentecost Sunday, the 8<sup>th</sup> and final Sunday of the Easter Season, presents John's account of the Risen Lord breathing on the frightened disciples and saying, "*Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven...*" (This selection is also read as a prologue to the "doubting Thomas" account on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter.)

If you want to **gain a deeper understanding of the most important Gospel accounts of the 90 days of the Lenten/Easter Season**, come and listen to Michael Reardon proclaim the entire Gospel of John on April 2nd. You will make connections you will never be able to make in any other way, and the Gospel of John will come alive for you in a new way.

Another special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event to be sure and attend is a **celebration downtown at the Beacon Club**--24 floors up with a spectacular view of Oklahoma City--on September 20<sup>th</sup>. This will be a formal affair with a sit-down dinner, live entertainment, and a speaker sharing delightful stories from the past 50 years of church history.

*In the peace of Christ,  
Fr. Joseph A. Jacobi*

## ST. EUGENE CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES



On January 11<sup>th</sup> twenty St. Eugene Confirmation candidates headed to beautiful Camp OLOG where they enjoyed a week-end retreat. Teens from Holy Name of Jesus parish in Chickasha joined the St. Eugene teens for a trip back in time where they were invited to be "childlike" at "The Seuss is Loose" Retreat.

Throughout the week-end the teens and adults were invited to be "childlike" as they learn more about their call to be Disciples of Christ.

A highlight of many of the teens was having Fr. Jacobi join them on Saturday evening, providing them the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Before heading to bed the teens enjoyed a "Frankfurter roast and Marshmallow toast."

The retreat concluded with the celebration of Mass on Sunday evening.

## IN THE FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS XII



**T**wenty-six men from St. Eugene Church attended the 12th Annual Catholic Men's Conference, In the Father's Footsteps XII. The day was filled with speakers talking on the theme of perseverance and encouraging the men in attendance to persevere in being better fathers, husbands and followers of Christ. St. Eugene has an active men's ministry. If you are interested in becoming a part of the St. Eugene Fellowship of Catholic Men, call Jeff Robinson at 623-1167 or Deacon Bill Bawden at 751-7115.

# PASTORAL COUNCIL REPORT

## February 7, 2008

The time line for Commission Structure for 2008-2009 was reviewed and approved. Effective ways to invite and encourage participation in the commissions was discussed. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee reported that Hispanics in Action and the Knights of Columbus will be working together to host the brunch to be held during the parish celebration. Priests who have previously served at St. Eugene's have been sent invitations to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, and Save the Date cards have been sent to founding members of the parish. September 20, 2008 is the date that has been set for the formal dinner at the Beacon Club which has a capacity of 300 to 400 people. Valet parking will be provided. Donations for wine for the event are being sought. The New Church Design Committee provided an update regarding the forthcoming distribution of booklets "A Legacy of Faith: Raising Up a Holy Place" created by members of the committee (Anne Coddling, Judi Wilkinson, Colleen Linke) to inform parishioners of the proposed design of the new church, and to offer opportunities to contribute to the sacred project. The DVD, produced by parishioner Cordell Jordan, which will accompany the booklets, was reviewed by council members.

### ADMINISTRATION

The Stewardship drive received 450 names from the cards returned by parish members. This committee is reviewing various alternatives for increasing parish participation including holding the drive at a different time of the year. A volunteer appreciation dinner was held January 26<sup>th</sup>. The Moran, Roy, and Varela families had their stewardship cards drawn from parish members participating in the stewardship drive for a dinner with Fr. Jacobi. A web designer has been identified to develop a template for a revised parish website. The WEB committee will meet with ministries to ensure accurate information the revised website. May 1<sup>st</sup> is the goal for the website for be up and running. Financial contributions in December were slightly higher than past months but still below budget. Revenues are exceeding expenses mainly due to the special effort to keep expenses to the bare minimum. The school is preparing to present their preliminary budget to the Finance committee for the upcoming fiscal year July 2007 through June 2008. The Building and Grounds Committee is working on various projects including a leaky bell tower and trying to find a solution to keeping the music room sounds within the school music room.

### COMMUNITY LIFE

Pat Horn is the new Chair of the Newcomer's Committee. Ministry/Organization Leaders are encouraged to be available after the

Masses on Mar. 2 to greet newcomers and answer questions about their ministry. Plans are being discussed for the Parish Picnic. The fruit, bagels and cream cheese will be replaced by muffins at Coffee and Donuts after the 10:00 Mass each Sunday. The Community Life Commission had a retreat to reflect on unity. It was suggested that this would be good for other Commissions to do. A discussion was held on the facility reservation process and the need to get reservation requests in early. The "Gathering of Ministers" is scheduled for April 3, 2008.

### FORMATION

Preparation and instruction for the sacrament of Baptism continues to be held on the second Monday of the month. Trainees who are preparing to conduct Marriage Preparation will have a group worship focused on the Blessings of Marriage. The school has experienced extensive illnesses among students and staff during this flu and cold season. Twenty or more children are attending Liturgy of the Word held concurrently with the 10:00 a.m. Mass This ministry is seeking volunteers such as empty nesters to help facilitate this ministry. Standards are also being created to set age parameters for children developmentally suited to attend the children's liturgy. Problems are being encountered in planning Vacation Bible School this summer. Extended Care has requested that Vacation Bible School be held in evening to better accommodate schedules. 700 people have registered to hear Dr. Scott Hahn speak at Bishop McGuinness on February 9, 2008. Students participating in Confirmation Preparation are participating in a service project putting together snack packs for Sister Barbara Joseph.

### OUTREACH

Sue and Bill Clifford presented ideas regarding possible implementation of a ministry "Let's Talk" which was utilized in the 1970's in Ardmore, OK, to facilitate interaction and mutual respect among people of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The potential for creating an interfaith forum in the community at large was also discussed. Stephen Ministry proceeds with registration at the upcoming Leader Training Conference in St. Louis, MO. Just Faith reported on their first "Border Crossing" held in downtown Oklahoma City at Project OK Compassion, which serves homeless persons. There is a new family in the Laughlin House. Mobile Meals reports delivering boxes of food as well as hot meals to those in need. An informational meeting will be held 2/11/08 in preparation for the Friends of Bolivia Mission slated for May 2008. English as a Second Language reports an

*(Continued on Page 4)*

## BUILDING UP A HOLY PLACE; BUILDING OUR COMMITMENT

When talking with experts about what it takes to build a new church, it is often noted that periodic capital campaigns are good for the health of a parish. This might seem like an obvious statement – a healthy community should exhibit growth. However, with a little reflection it appears that there may be a more profound meaning, even a spiritual meaning to this observation.

St. Eugene is blessed with many long-time parishioners, some of whom were instrumental in the construction of our present church. However, there are many more parishioners who joined the parish after construction was completed. Benefiting from our forerunners, these parishioners have not had the personal experience of building up the House of God.

Just as homeownership naturally produces a deep level of commitment to a neighborhood, investing in the new church will draw us as individuals into a fuller commitment to St. Eugene. How could anyone compare the attachment held to a parish that one has joined to the attachment held to a parish that one has built?

To further illustrate the point, we might draw a parallel between how we relate to our physical home, and how we relate to our spiritual home in the parish:

- **Spiritual Lodgers** – Primarily receive benefits from the community. Financial support is minimal.
- **Spiritual Renters** – Accept financial duty to community. Provide regular support to meet current needs and maintain current facilities.
- **Spiritual Homeowners** – Invested in community. Respond to unforeseen budget shortfalls by deferring other needs to increase support.
- **Spiritual Developers** – Building community for the good of others and for future generations.

Progress here is determined not by the amount that we give, but by the responsibility to the community that we accept. Each of us has certainly advanced along this path as part of our individual spiritual journey. The new church project presents us with the opportunity to continue our growth. Ideally, we can complete our transformation from those who simply take what is freely offered, to those who provide for the Gospel to be preached to friend and stranger alike.

There is indeed a spiritual dimension to our giving. “For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be (Mt 6:21).” As we choose to forego our own wants and offer up our gifts instead, we choose Christ over the goods of this world. This is an amazing thing. It can surely be a means to help us enter more fully into the Life of Christ.

*By Chuck Duginski, Co-Chair, New Church Design Committee*



### “Pastoral Council Report...”

*Continued from page 3*

increase in enrollment up to 21 people currently. A new ministry leader is being invited to facilitate The Prayer Network. Anyone interested may call Mary Rueb or the church office.

### WORSHIP

Following a parish-wide survey conducted by the commission, it was determined that 8:15 a.m. on Tuesday mornings was the most desired choice for an additional weekday Mass. Stations of the Cross for Lent were discussed and besides coordinating and presenting the Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. (English) on March 14, the Worship Commission will also be responsible every Friday evening throughout Lent for the set up of Stations of the Cross (unlock the sacristy, set out booklets, etc.). Cathy Carr will serve as chairperson of the Liturgy Committee. Names of possible additional members were discussed for the 8-12 members needed. John Spaid, Jr. will replace Barbara Curcio as the Worship Commission Link to the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. Booklets created by the New Church Committee are nearing completion by the printer. They will be embossed with the parish Jerusalem cross on the cover, and will have an accompanying DVD for distribution to the parish membership for the capital campaign. Additional people are needed to serve as coordinators of the Communion Ministers ministry and as Sacristan. More parishioners are also needed to serve within these ministries.

**50<sup>TH</sup>**  
Anniversary  
Series

## SOCIAL MINISTRY AT ST. EUGENE

In 1977, Father Gerard MacAulay asked my husband and me to chair a Social Ministry Board at St. Eugene. Leon and Madge Chandler and Jean and Jeff Hartmann were initial members of that Board. Social Ministry Boards were being formed in various parishes to ensure and coordinate acts of service and justice. A few years later with the influx of refugees from Viet Nam, Cambodia, and Afghanistan, the Board grew to include Mary Diane Steltenkamp, Tom and Judy White, and Steve and Priscilla Chastain.

It was quite an adventure working with those refugees who had endured hardships that we find difficult to imagine: months and even years of bare subsistence in refugee camps, separation from families, danger in escaping from the enemies, as well as encountering pirates who took advantage of those so needy. We worked closely with Catholic Charities who facilitated the refugees' placement with us. Catholic Charities provided some limited funds. We at St. Eugene found them housing in addition to the furnishings. We assisted in getting them jobs, took them to the stores for food and coordinated with the State Health Dept. their many health concerns.

I recall many memorable moments which are prominent in my mind. One such event was going to the grocery store prior to their arrival to buy some food only to realize that my purchase of peanut butter and jelly, a nutritious meal intended for the children, was not a staple for the Cambodians and Vietnamese. But they never complained for they were so grateful for the chance to live in America. Another memorable moment came when helping them find employment. Bunte Candy Company was very hospitable in hiring

our refugees. To this day I still remember the smell of peppermint in the air. Board members took them to English classes. A Carmelite sister made "teaching English" her second career. The names were so confusing.....mastering Son, Dong, and Sang was hard for the tongue of an Oklahoma person! At Christmas, we would bring gifts from generous contributors of the parish. Frequently we had so many presents that we supplied other refugee families who didn't have it as fortunate as ours. For Christmas, Joe played "Santa Claus." We hauled our three children around the city spreading cheer and presents. My oldest daughter, now with her own children, still recalls that formative time. There is a picture of Father MacAulay and me holding his namesake...yes a Cambodian child was named "Gerard" after Father MacAulay.

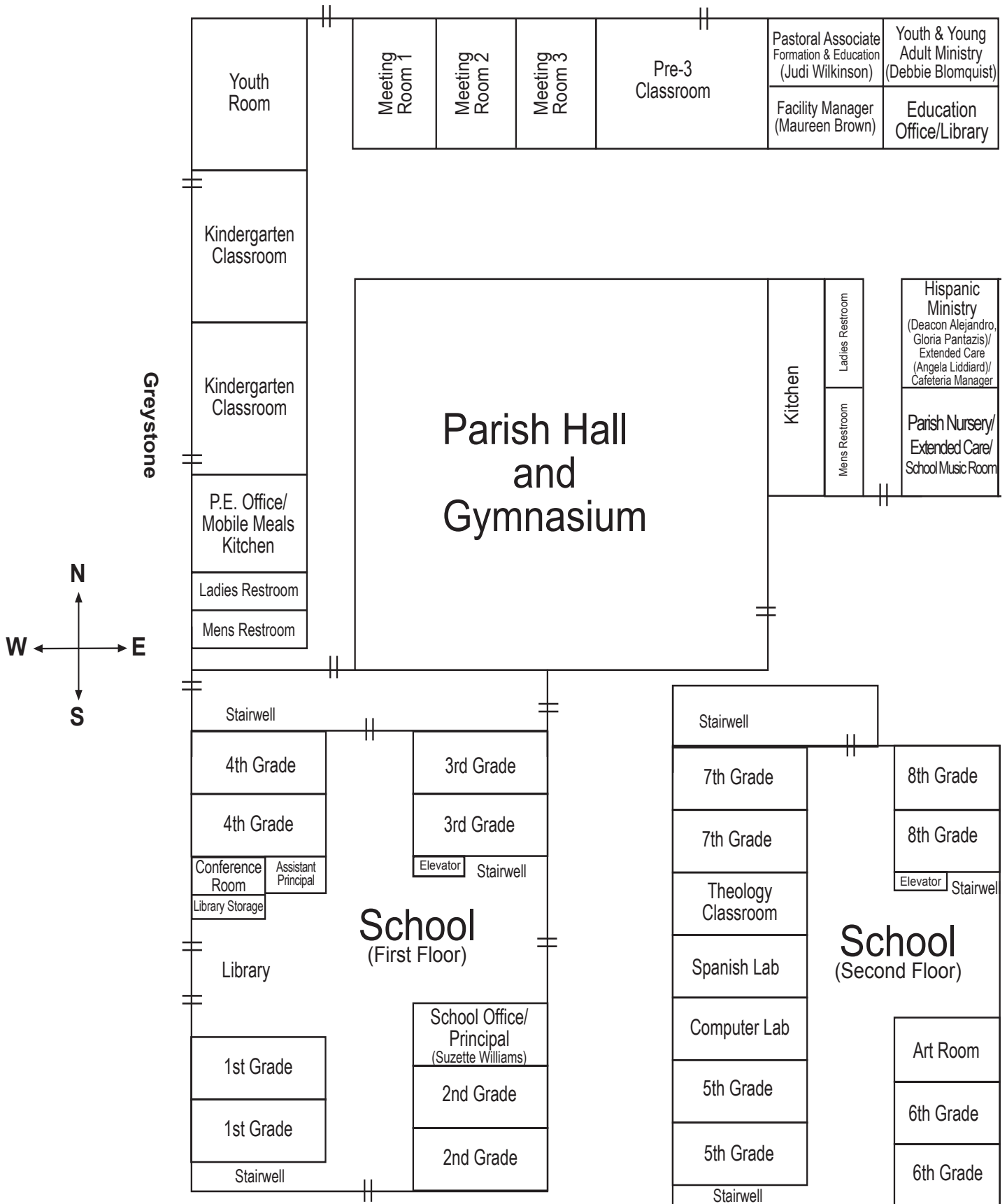
The entire experience was so life-giving...so much that it propelled me to continue my education in graduate social work and eventually secure a position at Catholic Charities as coordinator of Social Ministry for the Archdiocese. Several years after the arrival of our first refugee family, St. Eugene held a reunion.... a party for volunteers and our refugee families. It was so heartwarming to see how those brave immigrants carved out useful and meaningful lives in a new land. I admire their strength and courage and commend St. Eugene for making their new lives a reality.

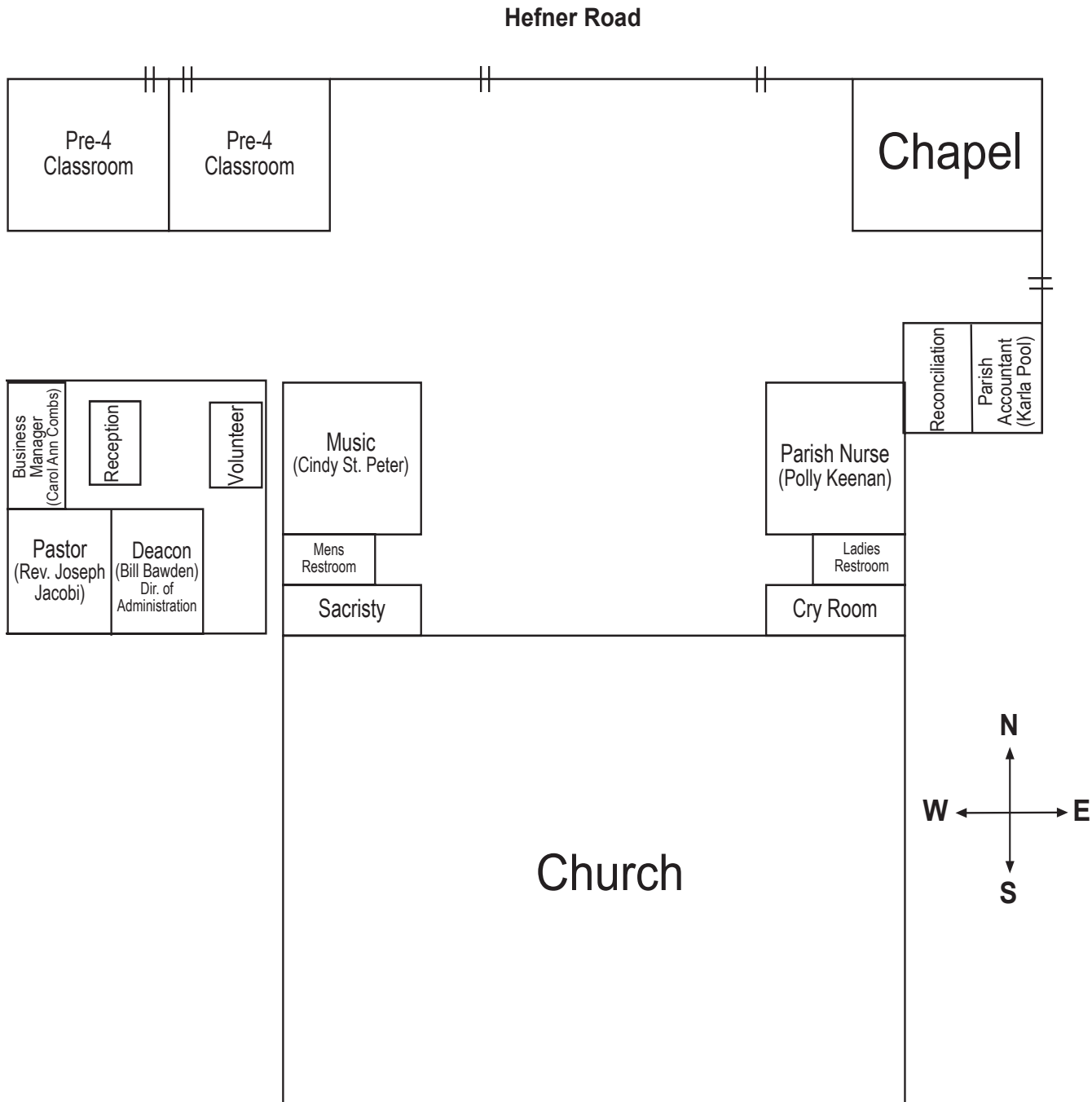
*Written by Pat Froehle. Presently Pat and Joe Froehle attend St. Charles Borromeo Church in Oklahoma City*



*For comments or to submit an article idea, please contact Gloria Pantazis: [gpantazis@steugenes.org](mailto:gpantazis@steugenes.org).*

Hefner Road





# St. Eugene Catholic Church

## Parish Campus

We have recently relocated some of our parish offices. Please take a moment to become familiar with these new locations. We hope these changes will serve our parish well.

# LENTEN AND HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

## WEEKLY SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

(Wed.) 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. & 8:00 - 8:30  
(Sat.) 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS AND LENTEN MEAL ON FRIDAYS

(Feb. 8 - March 14)  
6:00 p.m. in English  
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Lenten Meal  
7:30 p.m. Stations in Spanish

## LENTEN MEAL SCHEDULE:

March 7 - Altar Society  
March 14 - Hispanics in Action for St. Eugene

## HOLY TRIDUUM:

Holy Thursday: Mass of the Lord's Supper - 7:00 p.m.  
Good Friday: Stations of the Cross 12:00 (noon)  
Good Friday: Celebration of the Lord's Passion- 7:00 p.m.  
Holy Saturday: Great Vigil of Easter - 8:30p.m.  
Easter Sunday: 8:00 a.m.; 10:00 a.m.;  
12:00 (noon) in Spanish and 5:00 p.m.

St. Eugene Catholic Church  
PO Box 20930  
Oklahoma City, OK 73156

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK  
PERMIT NO. 121