



## Our History

Church of the Nativity was established in 1968 as a distinctly different kind of parish. Solidly built on the foundation of our Catholic Tradition and Eucharistic faith, it was to embody the new priorities and initiatives of the Second Vatican Council: reengaging the modern world with the message of Jesus Christ. In more recent years, the next generation of leaders has rediscovered this purpose as God has placed a bold new vision on our hearts.

## Our Vision

God has called us to be a church of growing disciples, who are growing disciples. As we nurture our parishioners in the faith and love of God, we strive to reach out to those separated from Christ and his Church, especially former Catholics in our north Baltimore community, and introduce them to the discipleship path. God has also moved us to share what we have learned with other Catholic parishes that are undertaking renewal. We want to be a source of inspiration and education for parishes across the country.

## Our Challenge

As we have pursued God's vision for our church, we have been blessed with unprecedented growth in every measurable way. This is most evident in overwhelming weekend participation – with more than 4,000 attendees each week. Typically, there is standing-room-only at Sunday Masses and our parking is full all weekend long (many parishioners park off campus). Each week children are unfortunately turned away from our programs for lack of space, and our youth programs are forced to meet at inconvenient times. We want to better serve our current congregation and continue to reach out to the thousands of people in our community who have no church family. We also hope to grow to a size that allows us to be a compelling witness to parishes elsewhere, while striving to remain a close and personal community for our parishioners.

## Our Plan

Parish leaders worked through a strategic planning process considering all aspects of parish life and growth. As part of this process we engaged the architectural firm of Levin Brown. The new sanctuary cost is approximately fifteen million dollars and we seek to raise as much of that as possible through this campaign (thereby minimizing any debt). We will undertake the following:

- A strikingly simple, attractive new church incorporating traditional Catholic elements in a contemporary designs, consistent with our existing buildings, set against the backdrop of the Ridgley Road forest conservancy
- A 1,500 seat sanctuary when fully built out in a semi-circular arrangement that maintains an intimate feel
- A new lobby including a café with indoor and patio seating
- Expanded space for kid's programs and dedicated space for students
- A chapel for meditation and prayer, daily Mass, weddings and funerals
- Landscaping to preserve and enhance the park-like experience of the campus and to provide a buffer with adjacent neighborhoods
- Additional enhancements to our parking lot, improved traffic flow

## Our Goal

Our goal is that every parish household participate in this campaign and give in a generous and sacrificial manner. Our goal is that through this shared effort, all of us together grow in fellowship and friendship becoming the stronger, healthier parish God wants us to be.

## Our Prayer

Lord God, with thanksgiving for the abundant good work you are working here at Nativity, we seek your continued assistance. May our Vision Campaign serve the movement of the kingdom of God in our generation. Help us, Lord, to bring more people in our community into a loving relationship with your Son. Let us be a source of blessing and inspiration to Catholic parishes across the country and around the world. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

