

# The New Stairs from the Church to the Portico Explained

The Building Our Faith capital campaign that began in 2016 has resulted in the newly completed Portico, Music and Multi-purpose room (MPR), STEM lab, new school offices and more. **Last month we fully paid off our construction loan! We are debt free!** This is a great accomplishment, and we thank everyone. We are Blessed, and I am Grateful!

This has truly been an amazing accomplishment for our parish! I do think it is not a stretch to say this is Historic News! Praise be to God.

I am additionally proud that as promised in 2018 when I became pastor, this has been the **FIRST STEP** in the **SPIRITUAL BUILDING** of our church. For the last two years, we have been building the church spiritually through our Pathway to Discipleship (Discover, Follow and Share Christ) Evangelization effort. This evangelization is being funded by additional donations to our evangelization fund and through your generosity in our Called to Renew Campaign. I am additionally Grateful!

Since we have now paid our construction loan, we are able to finish the last step of the Building Our Faith campaign with **the new stairs from the church to the Portico**.

## These New Stairs will provide

1. Easy access to events in The Portico and MPR after Masses,
2. a safe way for parents to walk toddlers to The Portico who need a break during Mass,
3. and these stairs will become the main entrance to the church from the parking lot, using the elevator or school staircase to come up, walk past STEM Lab and MPR, through The Portico and into the church.



OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

R K A  
ROBERT KERR architecture design

## More than Just Stairs! This project also includes:

- Removing the current planter and relocating the HVAC units to allow a staircase with two banks of stairs, a middle and an upper landing. The stairs will have decorative tile risers and concrete treads (or they will be all tile, the final design is still to be determined).

- The upper landing will non-slip tile and be expanded from 48 square feet to 135 square feet to allow more comfortable greeting space as we enter and exit the church. (We will also make it all one level, eliminating the current dip that causes people to stumble a bit).
- The front stairs onto 5th street sidewalk will be rebuilt to allow for the larger and single level upper landing. (The lower landing at top of the 5th street stairs will be raised to the same height as the landing that enters the church.)
- There will be room for storage (items to be used to enjoy the Portico, such as chairs and tables) between the church and the stairs. (The storage space is shown as the “caged-in” area in the pictures but will probably be enclosed with decorative wood sliding panels.)

### **How we plan to finance these New Stairs:**

**We are counting on the income from those who are still paying their outstanding Building Our Faith Campaign pledges to build these new stairs.** We will give ourselves a loan from our reserves to start as soon as possible, hopefully in a few months. Several years ago, our original design and cost analysis was for a simple staircase. Now we have expanded the project to include all that was listed just above. Because of this, and because of inflation, we are going to fall short of paying ourselves back. To prevent this our goal is to raise \$175,000 more.

### **Can You Help a bit more, or newly Join in this Historic Project?**

If you would like to help a bit more, or if you have not yet contributed, this is an opportunity to become part of this historic accomplishment. All additional donations from those who gave, and all new donations from those who have not yet given, will be acknowledged on the final donor wall on the Portico. (The current donor wall has plastic panels, that will be replaced by bronze and tile in the final version, indicating the different levels of contributions \$1,000, \$2,000, \$5,000, and \$10,000 in increasing levels of prominence.)

I am very grateful for all that we have done together and looking forward to taking the final step of this journey. I am aware that you may be helping in many other ways, both within our church and beyond. Please prayerfully consider also helping in this way. If this cause appeals to you and seems right in your discernment you can donate or pledge on our website, or by using the pledge cards in back of church. If you still wish to learn more and see more pictures including the schematic design, please go to our website: [www.ourladyofguadalupchurch.org](http://www.ourladyofguadalupchurch.org). You may also call the parish office at 310-372-7077 if you have any questions, or to donate.

Thank You, and May God Bless You,

Fr. Paul

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I will call the parish office at 310-372-7077 to set it up.

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Our Lady of Guadalupe Church  
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