100 Years of Faith, Hope, & Love Newsletter

Land Acquisition for a New Church Building

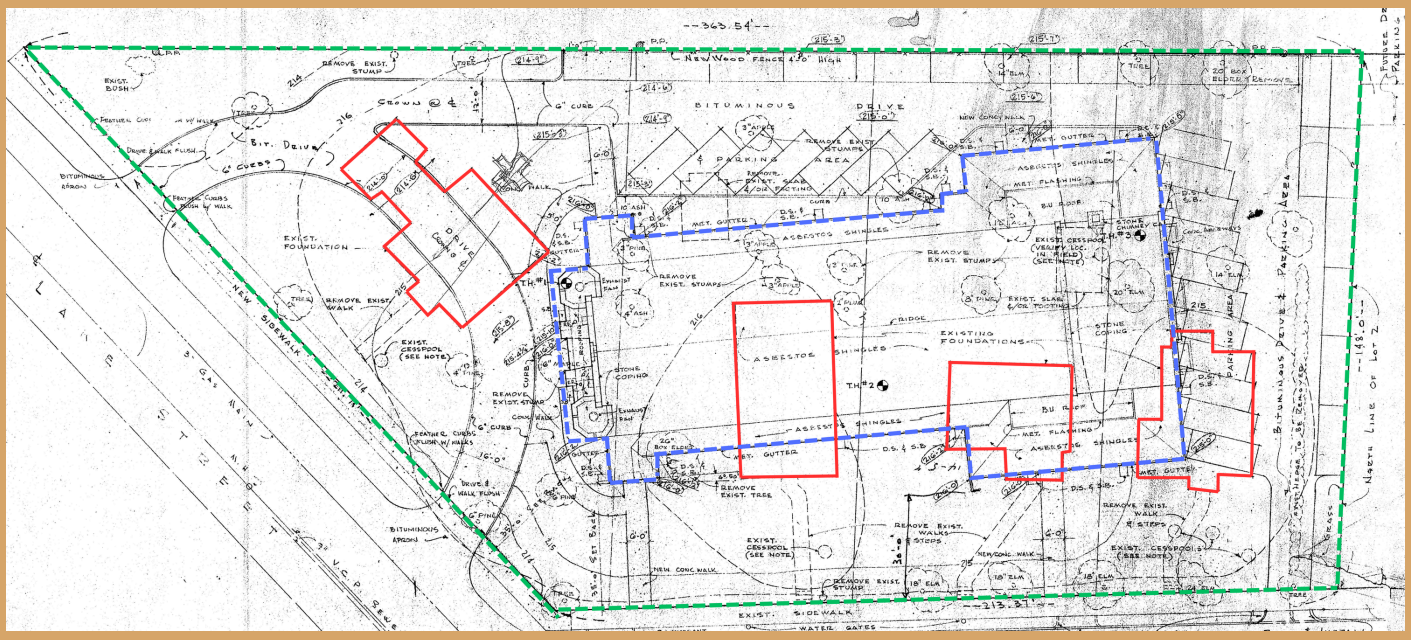
1957-1960

"The Lord has chosen Zion; He has desired it for his habitation: 'This is my resting place for ever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.'"

1 Chronicles 22:5

Wisdom & Foresight

In 1961, 35 years after its founding, Holy Family Catholic Church already served over 1,000 families. Long before that milestone was reached, however, Fr. Wilkins had begun to prepare for another parish expansion, this time across Lake Street to the land our church building sits on today. In 1957, Fr. Wilkins borrowed money from the Archdiocese in order to purchase this land. The loan, which amounted to $50,000, was paid in full as of June 1981.

Four residential plots were purchased in order to make room for the new Gothic church (see below). The oiriginal intent was for the church to be built off of Alabama Avenue on the western side of our school property, where the exit to our parking lot currently is. With the necessary land obtained, preparations began in earnest for the construction of a magnificent stone church in the English Gothic style: Holy Family as we know it today.

It should be noted that it wasn't until the 1990's that land contiguous with our south campus was purchased by Fr. Dufner. Straw buyers were needed in some instances because a few homeowners did not approve of the expansion of the church for whatever reasons. Historically, straw buyers were frequently used by Jews and African Americans to circumvent discrimination and obtain land for themselves or their institutions.