Transition Committee Update

The Christ the King–St. Stephen Transition Committee met on September 3 to continue planning for the transition associated with the eventual closure and sale of the St. Stephen property. Fr. Paulson emphasized that the committee's guiding principle is **"to make this a pastoral transition rather than merely a property transaction."** Regular communication, transparency, and opportunities for parishioner input will be important throughout the process.

Current plans call for the **final Masses at St. Stephen on Easter Sunday, March 28, 2027**. During Lent, selected sacred and historically significant items are expected to be prayerfully processed from St. Stephen to CTK each Sunday. This "pilgrimage of faith" is intended to help us remember, give thanks, grieve, and gradually make this journey together. A farewell celebration at St. Stephen and a welcoming celebration at CTK are also being considered.

The committee is exploring ways to ensure that the **identity, spirit, and heritage of St. Stephen remain an important part of our united parish community**. This includes new campus signage identifying Christ the King–St. Stephen Catholic Church, renaming the Ministry Center Chapel as the St. Stephen Chapel, and creating an historical display celebrating the history of both communities. An inventory of sacred, historical, liturgical, and other items at St. Stephen will also help determine what can be incorporated into the CTK campus.

Most importantly, the committee wants to hear from **parishioners at both campuses**. The committee emphasized that this should be a genuine blending of our communities—not simply CTK "absorbing" St. Stephen. The welcoming spirit, hospitality, fellowship, traditions, people, and sense of family that have characterized St. Stephen should continue to enrich the life of Christ the King–St. Stephen Parish.

A transition status update and parishioner listening sessions will be held at St. Stephen on Saturday, October 10, following the 5:00 p.m. Mass, and Sunday, October 11, following the 9:30 a.m. Mass. We encourage all parishioners to attend, hear the latest information, ask questions, and share their thoughts, hopes, and concerns with the Transition Committee.

Please continue to pray for our parish community and the Transition Committee as we make this journey together.