

Groundbreaking held for St. Bernadette Church

Building planned in Prospect area

By Laura Ungar
lugar@courier-journal.com
The Courier-Journal

Parishioners carried a cross in a slight drizzle on Sunday, placing it at the spot in northeast Jefferson County where the altar for their new Catholic church will stand.

Shortly afterward, the Rev. Joseph E. Kurtz, archbishop of the

Archdiocese of Louisville, sprinkled the land with holy water.

The groundbreaking ceremony signaled that the faithful in St. Bernadette Parish — who now worship in a school gymnasium — soon will have a church of their own.

“Bless all those who have worked to provide for this site,” Kurtz told a crowd gathered at 6500 St. Bernadette Ave. in Prospect. “Today, may they rejoice in work just begun.”

Kurtz and the Rev. Terry Bradshaw, pastor of the church, joined others in digging shovels into the

earth.

Church leaders say construction will take about 16 months.

The church is designed to seat 1,250, with the ability to expand to fit 1,600. It will include three meeting rooms, a day chapel, a nursery and a bell tower. It was designed by Voelker.Blackburn.Niehoff Architects. The general contractor is Lichtefeld Inc.

St. Bernadette Parish, which serves 1,460 families, was founded in 2008 from the merger of the Mother of Good Counsel Parish, on Westport Road, and the Transfiguration of Our Lord Parish in

Goshen. St. Mary’s Academy, a regional school that shares the site with St. Bernadette Parish, opened in 2009, as did St. Bernadette’s parish center. The campus is off Ky.1694 at the Jefferson-Oldham county line, about a mile north of Brownsboro Road.

Bradshaw said he hasn’t minded worshipping in the school’s gymnasium, where some of Sunday’s ceremony also was held.

“The church is the people. And the people are good,” he said. “It doesn’t feel like a school gym when we’re worshipping in it.”

He said the church’s location

reflects growth in that area of Jefferson County. Census data for 2010 released earlier this year showed some of Louisville’s fastest-growing neighborhoods were in eastern Jefferson County.

Marie Swift, 82, said she was a longtime member of Mother of Good Counsel and believes the merger with Transfiguration of Our Lord has gone well. She said she looks forward to the future church: “This is great. I can’t wait for it to open.”

Reporter Laura Ungar can be reached at (502) 582-7190.

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The boy, who... identified, was shot Friday night in the South Eighth Street...

Girl, 10, v

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Louisville Metro... investigating the 10-year-old girl who...



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