



Groundbreaking Ceremony

September 12th, 2026

Keith Hock

Good afternoon and welcome. Father Blessing, thank you for the opportunity to say a few words here today.

Many of you have heard our personal story of the Holy Spirit calling us to help lead the mission to build this new church. But today we recall with gratitude and appreciation those who've answered the call before us; the members of the faith community who built the very first church on these grounds in the 19th century, the members of Immaculate Conception and St. David's who built their new churches in the 20th century. Archbishop Rozansky, I recall Lois and I having dinner with you at your residence a few years ago, and you sharing with us how you answered the call to leave Springfield and come to St. Louis to lead us in reimagining the church in St. Louis for the 21st century.

Fr. Blessing, we're grateful to you for answering the call to lead the creation of Holy Family and the reuniting of the faith community in Arnold. Diane, thank you for your generosity. I can't imagine how we would have done this without you. Finally, we're deeply grateful to all of you and everyone who has answered the call to support the mission to build this new church with your prayers, your hard work, and your pledges.

Today is a day we've been looking forward to for more than three years. I'm reminded of Matthew's gospel from this past Sunday. Jesus promised "where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Our hope is this church will be the place where our families, our children, and future generations can come together in the presence of Jesus to celebrate the sacraments for the next century. But even more than that, we hope this church will be a symbol and inspiration for every person in the Arnold community who's on their journey to unite with Jesus in his kingdom here on earth and eventually in his kingdom to come.

Thank you.