



ARCHDIOCESE
OF LOUISVILLE

MEDIA ADVISORY

May 3, 2018

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Saint Gabriel Parish Opens First Natural Playground in Archdiocese

(Louisville, Ky.) On Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 4:00 pm, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz will join Father John A. Schwartzlose, pastor of Saint Gabriel Parish in blessing the first natural playground at any of the 110 archdiocesan parishes or 49 schools of the Archdiocese and one of the first of its kind in Jefferson County. This event will take place on the Saint Gabriel the Archangel campus at 5505 Bardstown Road, Louisville, Ky. 40291. Activities include music, food trucks, a petting zoo, face painting and a Gaga ball tournament.

Founded in 1953 and now the largest parish and school in the Archdiocese, Saint Gabriel Parish developed a plan for this playground after a parish facilities needs assessment survey identified a playground as the second most important area for growth. Saint Gabriel decided to create a natural outdoor Playpark, outdoor learning hub, youth activity center and prayer area on the plot behind the parish campus. The parish worked with Booker Design Collaborative and E-Z Construction, a team of educators from the school and parish staff to design an all-age, environmentally-friendly, and aesthetically beautiful Playpark where kids can create, innovate and engage in over 18 unique natural experiences. The Playpark will be open to the parish and the broader Fern Creek community.

With over 6,600 parishioners, Saint Gabriel Parish is one of 110 parishes in the 24 counties of Central Kentucky that comprise the Archdiocese of Louisville.

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