

CONTINUING THE JOURNEY.

I/we already pledged and now we'd like to make an additional gift so we can soon achieve our \$1 Million Parish Goal.

My/our financial commitment will be:

- Pledge
- Pledge w/ initial payment
- One-time gift
- Securities
- Other (please explain) _____

Name: _____
 Phone: _____
 Address: _____



Return this card to the Church Office or place in the Offeratory Basket.



Special Edition Campaign Newsletter August 2017

Keep Our Vision Growing in God's Merciful Love

Capital Stewardship Campaign Newsletter

God is Calling. How Will You Respond?

Dear Church Family,

It's hard to believe that just one year ago we launched our capital campaign, Growing in God's Merciful Love. Much has been accomplished since last August and we are grateful to you, our parishioners, for your support thus far in the campaign.

As of the end of July, we have received more than \$650,000 in pledges toward our \$1 million goal from within the Parish. We are also pleased to report that we are in dialogue with outside sources of support for the \$1 million outside the Parish fundraising goal. These talks are progressing positively, and we anticipate a good result.

As we reflect on the past year, we also look to the future and the next phase of our campaign. We are launching a reigniting phase called "Keep our Vision Growing in God's Merciful Love".

We know that our goal is within reach! We are calling on all parishioners who have not had an opportunity to contribute to the campaign to make an initial pledge. We are also inviting parishioners who have given to prayerfully consider if an additional gift is within their means.

To help us during this time of discernment, the capital campaign prayer team is planning a Parish-wide time of prayer to include the Rosary, Eucharistic Adoration, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. We are also planning a ministry fair, to help us all on our stewardship journey to use our time, talent, and treasure to serve the church. Dates for these important events are listed in this newsletter. Please also watch the bulletin for updates.

In closing, we want to express our sincere appreciation for all you have done to get us to this point. We know that you took the call to sacrificial giving to heart and have indeed made sacrifices to support the campaign. As we near our goal, we look forward to the construction of a new church to meet our needs and support the continued growth of the Catholic faith that is so joyfully present here in Cedar Springs.

Sincerely,
Rev. Lam T. Le
Pastor

Mindy Larva/Chris Pigorsh
Campaign Co-Chairs



Not Equal Gifts But Equal Sacrifice

The simple and profound theme that has underscored "Growing In God's Merciful Love" comes from the Scriptures' teaching about proportionate giving and the blessings of sacrifice. No gift impresses God in terms of dollar amounts, but rather the love and obedience with which they are given in proportion to the resources you've been given. God, in other words, looks at your heart.

Sacrifice means something different to everyone. For some, it may mean eliminating some current expenditures to increase giving. Others will delay a major expenditure. Some people will find ways to increase their income in order to give to the capital campaign. Some will give special gifts out of their assets, such as stocks, bonds, valuables, etc.

Remember that your experience with personal sacrifice is not a one-time check or contribution, but a profound way to explore and deepen the gift of giving based upon how God has blessed you.

IMPORTANT DATES

August 26-27

Rosary after every mass to begin 2 week period of prayer

August 29

Begin 24 hours of adoration following noon mass

August 31-September 8

Pray Divine Mercy Chaplet daily at 6:00pm

You can find the Divine Mercy Novena at
<http://www.thedivinemercy.org/message/devotions/novena.php>

September 9-10

Ministry fair following all masses,
a light lunch will be served following the 10:30 mass

September 24

Celebration of Keep our Vision Growing in
God's Merciful Love after 10:30 mass

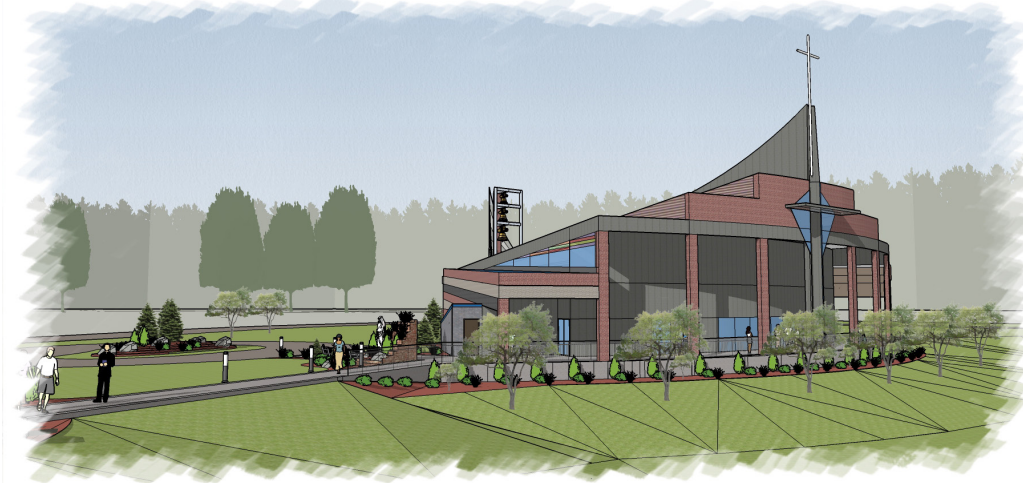
TEXT @STJOHNPA TO 910-249-6891 TO BE ADDED TO OUR TEXT ALERTS

FACILITY FEATURES

Our current church is approximately 2,300 square feet and designed to seat 150 parishioners per mass comfortably, but sometimes we've been squeezing in nearly 190 per mass. The first phase of the new church will be 5,100 square feet and accommodate 312 people with flexibility to allow 75 more seats for peak Holy Days and other special occasions.

The new church will be more accessible, including a new sound system with a hearing loop, a larger narthex to meet and greet, and a covered portico for comfort and safety when arriving and departing church, as well as for gatherings outside.

The plan also includes a rectory on campus that will give us the structure to grow, protect, and nurture our sacramental ministries. Providing a home for our priest will make him more readily available. It will also allow us to invite a retired priest, visiting priest, or seminarian to come, stay, and participate in our church life. We will also have space for an associate pastor when our growth reaches that level.



CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Lord God, We gather together in your name.
We acknowledge your loving presence among us.
We ask you to help us to recognize the many gifts we have received from You. We thank you, in particular, for calling us to serve you.

Bless the work of our hands, minds and hearts as we seek to use the gifts and talents you have given us to plan for the future church in our midst.

Set us on the right path to become good stewards of all you have entrusted to us. Bless our growing community, so that we may move forward in faith together.

We ask this through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.
Amen.