

GROWING IN GOD'S MERCIFUL LOVE

SAINT
JOHN
PAUL II
PARISH



St. John Paul II Parish Capital Campaign Frequently Asked Questions

Fundraising

Q. How much do we need to raise?

A. \$1,000,000 from parishioners and an additional \$1,000,000 from outside our parish family. The remaining \$2,000,000 will come from a diocesan loan, for a total of \$4,000,000.

Q. What if we don't raise the combined \$2M needed by the desired time?

A. Our parish needs a larger church, and if we have to continue/extend our fundraising efforts to achieve our goal, we will do that. However, our hope is that we will raise the money in the desired time frame.

Q. How do I know my contribution will be used for the new church and not for another expense?

A. All funds raised will be kept in a separate account that will only be used for the construction of the new church.

Q. How do you know that we can raise \$2,000,000?

A. Prior to launching the capital campaign, Saint John Paul II Parish underwent a feasibility study that included a survey of all registered parishioners and personal interviews. The study showed that \$2M is a reasonable fundraising goal for our parish if everyone participates and contributes.

Pledges

Q. How much will I be asked to give?

A. You will not be told to give a specific amount. Everyone is asked to first reflect on his/her individual blessings and then pray about a sacrificial commitment to be paid over three years. Your commitment should be *over and above* your current giving to the church.

Q. How do I decide what I should commit to our capital stewardship campaign?

A. Prayer and reflection! One of the campaign themes is "not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice". Everyone is blessed differently. Everyone cannot give the same amount. If your gift is truly sacrificial, then the gifts are equal in the sight of God. Deuteronomy 16:17 says, "...But each of you with as much as you can give, in proportion to the blessings which the Lord your God, has bestowed on you."

Q. What does "sacrificial" mean?

A. Sacrificial giving is a personal act of giving generously of yourself or your resources as a response to God's immeasurable generosity to you. A sacrificial commitment is one that requires you to change your lifestyle while fulfilling it – perhaps a re-prioritization of how you use your God-given resources. Consider what you would be willing to do or do without. What can you postpone or alter? Everyone is being asked to sacrifice over three years to enable our important facility plans.

Q. What if I'm uncertain about my financial future?

A. No one knows the future, but, everyone should prayerfully consider a 3-year sacrificial commitment. Should your circumstances change, you may modify your commitment by notifying the parish office. Pray to know God's direction and trust God as you are led.

Q. Will I have an opportunity to make pledge payments as I desire?

A. Yes. Each parishioner can designate how they wish to fulfill their commitment: weekly, monthly, quarterly, annually, etc. over a 3-year period. Special giving envelopes will be provided for payments.

Q. When will I have an opportunity to make my 3-year commitment?

A. You must first prayerfully reflect on your blessings and what a sacrificial pledge would mean in your life. Parishioners will be given a pledge card on Commitment Weekend (Oct. 29/30) and asked to begin confidentially registering their three-year commitments.

Q. Who will see my pledge?

A. A small confidential team of parish staff will record pledges. Rest assured, this information will not be shared or discussed with anyone.

Q. Can I make my pledge through online giving?

A. Yes, we will have an option to use online giving.

Q. If I elect to make periodic payments (monthly, quarterly, yearly), will I be invoiced as a reminder?

A. Yes, we will send quarterly statements to not only remind you about your payment but also share important updates about the campaign.

Construction/Facilities

Q. What will happen to our current facilities?

A. All current facilities, including the church, will continue to be utilized as the faith formation and outreach center of the parish. The current church will remain as a holy chapel for weddings, funerals, and daily mass.

Q. When will construction begin?

A. Construction will be determined by our fundraising. The Diocese requires us to raise \$2M of the needed \$4M before a loan will be provided, thereby enabling the start of construction. It is our hope and prayer that we would have \$2M raised by 2018, so the loan could be obtained and construction started. We will not begin construction until we have the necessary funds.

Q. The case for support shows that the Parish expects to have 600 families by 2018. How will we have space for this projected growth?

A. Our ability to grow is dependent on the space we have available. We know that there is a need for a strong Catholic church in our community. We also know that people are sometimes turned away by a lack of space in our current facility. That is why the construction of the new church is so important!

Q. As our parish continues to grow, will the rectory be large enough to accommodate an associate pastor some day?

A. Yes. As with the new church, we have an eye to the future with the rectory. The planned rectory space will be handicap accessible for a retired priest in residence to assist our pastor. The space also allows for an associate pastor, as well as flexible space that could accommodate short-term residency of seminarians. Having space for additional ministerial people will not only ensure we can accommodate them, but attract them to help further the mission as the parish continues to grow.

Finances

Q. What about our current debt? Will we be taking on additional debt when construction begins?

A. Our current debt is comfortably managed within our operating budget. We are also able to pay down additional principal on our existing debt through contributions from CSA and offertory income. With continued growth of the parish, we anticipate increased offertory contributions, which we expect will accelerate our payments. Our goal is to have the current debt eliminated by the time a new loan from the diocese is obtained for construction. We will look closely at any existing debt before taking on additional debt and ensure that the payments are feasible based on the operating budget at that time. We are proud to be self-sustaining and fully intend to remain that way.

Q. Once our new church is built we will undoubtedly have increased operating costs. Can we afford it?

A. With a new church, we will have additional operating costs which are expected to be easily accommodated by our growing parish family and offertory from these new members. Other churches that have been in similar situations and constructed new facilities have been successful in affording those increased costs.