



1. We have all been so fortunate – many before us have laid foundations and sustained our parish for decades. They have made possible the opportunity we now have to leave a “Legacy of Faith” for the future – for those who come after us.

2. This weekend we begin our “Legacy of Faith” appeal - but first I want to address concerns about the loss of our gym due to Hurricane Irma:

The gym has been declared a total loss and due to structural concerns, will be torn down. On a positive note, because of the good insurance we have through the diocese, there is full coverage for this loss, other than a small deductible which the parish and school currently has in reserves. Our new and improved gym will be completely replaced by September, 2018.

Also, the insurance company will cover the cost of a large tent to accommodate us during the Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday Masses. Fr. Kelly has already agreed to celebrate Masses in the tent!

Thank you for your concerns about this, it certainly means a lot.

3. I’m sure you may have heard many things about our Appeal already.

- A letter about this project and the kick-off was mailed to all parish families.
- Organization for our campaign is progressing smoothly.
- Initial volunteer response has been most gratifying to me personally, and encouraging to the campaign co-chairs and other volunteers.
- I am very pleased to tell you we are honored to have John & Gina Delaney and Joe & Terri Moye as Co-Chairs for the campaign, and of course, Father Kelly as Honorary Chair. I’m sure with their involvement we are on strong footing as we begin our campaign.

4. The projects that will be undertaken will address many needs we have today – for worship, for our school, for our youth programs, and other needed meeting spaces – and will prepare us well for the future.

5. In a moment, we will see a video that will illustrate what our parish appeal will make possible. It begins by showing how central St. Paul's is to the Jacksonville Beach Community. You will see how our campus will be upgraded with paved and lighted parking. You will see a new Church that will be visible from Beach Boulevard. The video leads us through one entrance, with a covered drop-off area – where handicap parking will be located – into a large vestibule. Notice the image of the Risen Christ from our current Church. It will figure prominently in front of the stained glass windows. This vestibule will be connected to our Family Life Center by a hallway, and along this hallway will be plenty of new restrooms!

The video next takes us inside the Church. Though many of the details are yet to be determined, you can see an overview of the space. Notice the stained glass windows and Stations of the Cross that will be relocated from our current church. The prominent crucifix and sanctuary will be awash with light from the skylight window high on the roof of the church. There are spaces for the Statue of the Blessed Mother and a holy Tabernacle within the sanctuary. There is a choir loft, and a larger cry room which doubles as a bride's room.

Going out of the church there is a large plaza with a statue of our patron, St. Paul. We then proceed to our current building where we will have a Eucharistic Adoration Chapel capable of seating up to 100 for prayer, small weddings and funerals. Pre-K classrooms will be located in the current church – and eventually special purpose classrooms and parish offices. We then return to the Plaza where you will see the bell tower at the entrance to the church.

I hope this gives you a good sense of the potential in store for our parish.

6. Our Campaign will ask all parishioners to participate according to their means with a pledge payable over five years. I also ask you to pray for the success of our appeal and become a volunteer – we need many helpers. In the coming weeks, a volunteer will be contacting you with more information about the campaign.

7. Fr. Kelly had hoped to be here this weekend but was not able to do so. Fr. Kelly sent a statement he wanted to be read with his thoughts about the project and campaign. Mary Jo Antone, our Director of Parish Ministries will read his message. I am encouraged and honored by Fr. Kelly's support of this event in the life of St. Paul's Church.

We seek to raise \$8 million to address the needs of this project. On that note, I want to tell you that some early quiet work has been done on the campaign so far. I am pleased to announce at this time 74 parish families and individuals have come forward and have pledged a total of just over \$2.5 million! Their generosity and commitment is certainly encouraging. Thank you for your time today. May the Lord bless our Legacy of Faith Campaign for St. Paul's Parish.

-Fr. Michael Houle