



A LEGACY OF FAITH

The Campaign for St. Paul's Catholic Church

Jacksonville Beach, Florida

Frequently Asked Questions About Our Campaign

Thank you for your thoughtful questions. We will update this communication regularly to add additional questions and clarifications. We welcome any and all questions, as this campaign is about creating a vibrant future for our St Paul's family and community.

Q What is *A Legacy of Faith*? What are we raising funds for?

A *A Legacy of Faith* is our name for the capital campaign in progress at St. Paul's Catholic Church. Based on significant examination and study, this campaign seeks to address specific needs brought about by the blessings of our vibrant and growing parish.

The primary thrust of this campaign seeks to build a church that will better accommodate our parish family, renovate/repurpose Fr. Murphy Hall for use as the Vincent DePaul Store as well as parish storage, create an Eucharistic Adoration Chapel and 4 pre-K classrooms in the existing church building and replace the aging and energy inefficient windows in the school and improved parking.

Our financing capability will determine our ability to complete the full proposed plan (which also includes new parish offices, meeting rooms in the existing church) or the necessity to approach the project in two distinct phases.

Q What is the driving force behind *A Legacy of Faith*?

A St. Paul's has undertaken the campaign to address the parish's most pressing needs, namely:

- Capacity of the church given our growing parish registry
- Capacity of our parking facilities
- Co-location of the VPK classrooms with the main school building
- Installing energy-efficient windows and HVAC in the school building to ensure greater sustainability and comfort
- Adding space to the school building to provide more resources for art, music, and STEAM learning

Q How did the St. Paul's parish community undertake the process of assessing the need and support for a new church?

A In April 2017 we engaged CCS Fundraising, a nonprofit fundraising consulting firm, to conduct an initial survey of approximately 10-15% of the active families in our parish. In that survey we sought to measure both interest in a new church and the viability of raising the money to achieve this goal. This process was completed over a two-month timeframe and resulted in not only validating that we had the ability to raise the funds necessary to complete our projects, but also showed that there is strong support for

these projects within our community. When surveyed, 88% of the responding families indicated they felt “Very Positive” or “Positive” about the effort to undertake this campaign.

Q Why have we decided to build a new church rather than expand the current church building? Were any options considered that would allow continued use of the existing church?

A We currently have 6 Sunday Masses, including the Saturday evening vigil. All the Masses are very well-attended, and many of them have attendance that exceeds seated capacity, so some parishioners must stand. We have reached the point in the growth of our parish that we need a bigger space for our community.

We did look at options to continue using our current church building. We found that any renovation would have required the building to be brought up to code, which would have significantly reduced the building’s current 600-person capacity. The current church’s location, adjacent to the school, also makes it an optimal space for expanding the school’s footprint. Based on our findings, we determined that building a new church is the best way forward for the St. Paul’s community.

Q How did we determine the total cost and cost balance for the new church and the school improvements?

A Ronald Scalisi Architects worked in conjunction with Auld & White Constructors to determine the cost of constructing a new church. Once that cost was assessed, we assessed the cost to address the most pressing needs of St. Paul’s school and determined that we need \$8M to complete the Phase One projects. Given the cost for new construction and the scale of the new church building, much of the budget for Phase One will go towards construction of the new church. We went through a similar process to determine costs for Phase Two, but given the plan to expand school facilities by refurbishing the old church, the costs for this phase are primarily weighted toward the school.

Q Have we assessed the operating expense of the new church and school expansion to ensure that we are in a position to thrive in the future?

A There will be incremental operating costs for the new church and expanded campus facilities. The estimated incremental cost for the new church is \$5,000 per month, which can be absorbed by the parish’s offertory. The incremental cost for the school is estimated at \$3,500 per month, which can be absorbed by the school’s annual fundraising initiatives.

Q What is the current state of our offertory and parish engagement? Are we in a good position to support a new church?

A St. Paul’s continues to benefit from a generous and engaged parish community. Our offertory has grown steadily over the past five years. There continues to be strong growth in the Beaches area, and we currently have over 4,000 registered parish families – and the parish registry has grown at 8% per year since 2013!

Q Are we confident that the Beaches and its Catholic community is growing at a pace that can support a larger church?

A The Beaches and surrounding areas continue to thrive, and our population continues to grow. This campaign also gives the parish the opportunity to engage more parishioners in regular mass attendance. St Paul's also enjoys a robust RCIA program which continues to bring new Catholics into our family. We are highly confident we have the growth and engagement opportunities to support the new church.

Q **What improvements will be made to the school in Phase One and Phase Two?**

A Phase One:

- Installation of new windows in the school building that can be opened when the weather permits
- Installation of a new HVAC system, allowing our school building to be more energy-efficient and maintain a balanced temperature year-round
- Addition of four pre-Kindergarten classrooms to the existing church building, which will eliminate the need for portable classrooms

Phase Two:

- Adding special purpose classrooms for art, music, and science to the newly-installed second floor of the current church building

Q **Is the campaign's goal \$8M or \$11M? What additional work will be accomplished if we reach the higher goal?**

A Our Phase One goal of \$8M allows us to address a number of the parish's most pressing needs: the construction of a new church, improvements to the school building, repurposing and refurbishing of the current church building and Father Murphy Hall, and improvements to our parking facilities.

Our Phase Two goal, which raises an additional \$3M for a total of \$11M raised, allows for additional refurbishing of the current church building to meet our parish's needs. In Phase Two, we will install a second floor in our current church building that will be used for special purpose classrooms, parish offices, and meeting spaces.

These two phases dovetail one another, and raising the \$11M needed to complete both phases is the most expedient way to position the St. Paul's campus and community for its future. Therefore, we are ambitiously pursuing the \$11M goal so that we can meet all the projected needs for St. Paul's through this campaign.

Q **Once we've raised the money for Phase One, when does construction begin? What is the timeframe for the project?**

A The Diocese mandates strict guidelines for capital improvement projects such as this one. We must have \$8M pledged and \$4M collected before we can begin the construction process. This ensures that we do not take on long-term debt, and that the entire project will be paid off in 5 years or less. Given the money we currently have pledged and collected, by the time the church is completed over 75% of the debt will be paid off based on the projected collection schedule of gifts.

Q **When will construction begin? What are the current expectations of the construction time frame?**

A Once we have \$8M pledged and \$4M collected, we can proceed with finalizing the building plans and getting approval from the Diocese. This could happen as soon as June of 2019. Once the necessary funds are in place and we have Diocesan approval, we estimate that it will take one year to construct a new church.

Q What is the timetable for Phase Two of the project?

A We can begin Phase One as soon as we reach \$8M pledged and \$4M received. Phase Two has the same proportional financial requirements. Since the focus of Phase Two is on converting the current church building into offices and classrooms, we cannot begin construction until the new church is built and in use.

Q Given the location of the new church, next to the Family Life Center, is there a need for additional security measures on the St. Paul's campus?

A Securing the St. Paul's campus for our students and staff is a paramount concern. Krissy Thompson, our school's principal, has put together a Security Task Force whose members include former law enforcement and intelligence agents to develop a complete security plan for St. Paul's School and the entire parish campus. Currently, we have security cameras installed throughout the St. Paul's campus so that virtually everywhere is covered by a security camera. As the project progresses, we will continue to consider proactive solutions to make the campus as secure as possible.

Q How do we plan to incorporate elements of our current church into the design of the new church and the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel?

A This is an important question. Although *A Legacy of Faith* is focused on both current and future generations of St. Paul's parishioners, we want to make every effort to retain important memories and significant visual artifacts of our wonderful church. We have already decided to incorporate many elements of our current church into the new design; namely, we plan to move the stained glass windows and Stations of the Cross, as well as the Risen Christ and much of our statuary. We are considering input from parishioners as to how we can make the chapel represent our history as well. We will absolutely incorporate some of the most sacred relics of our current church, such as the current Tabernacle, which will become the Tabernacle of the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. Many ideas will be considered. Father Houle will share more about this process as the project progresses, but please know we are very committed to our past, present and future.

Q Who is being asked to support this campaign?

Each individual or household in the parish will be asked to prayerfully consider a gift to *A Legacy of Faith* campaign.

Q How much am I expected to give?

All parishioners are being asked to consider a specific gift amount. However, you alone can determine the amount of your gift. Consult the various gift plans accompanying the brochure. Please remember, we need the participation of all parishioners and, if your gift is one of sacrifice, it is truly a generous gift regardless of its size.

Q Why am I asked to consider a specific amount?

Parishioners need to know what levels of support are necessary to meet and exceed our campaign financial need. A gift amount is suggested for each household to prayerfully consider. No judgment is made on the level of gift you or others make. *The true test of your gift is whether it is planned, proportionate and sacrificial.*

Q What if I choose not to give the amount requested?

Matters of giving are questions of priorities. Your family is unique unto itself; however, you are asked to prayerfully consider a specific gift. Whatever your response, it should be one of choice and sacrifice.

Q I dislike pledging. Why am I asked to make a pledge instead of a one-time gift?

You can make a one-time gift; however, the success of the campaign rests largely on pledges payable over five years. In addition, by making a pledge, you are able to donate more than would be otherwise possible with a one-time gift.

Q I would like to make a pledge, but our budget is especially tight this year. How can I still participate?

The campaign pledge period is structured over a five-year period, and you can determine when you want to start payment of your pledge.

Q We have been transferred to this area and will probably move in a few years. Why should we contribute to a campaign that will not directly benefit our family?

More than likely, you have been the beneficiaries of facilities in this parish as well as in others. When you move and join another parish, you will benefit from the generosity of others in your new parish.

Q Will I need to maintain my weekly contribution?

Yes! Weekly offerings are used for the normal operating expenses of the parish. We depend on these contributions to maintain the parish and its programs.

Q Can I make a gift other than cash?

Yes! A range of attractive possibilities exists, including appreciated stock, real estate, bequests, etc. Please contact your financial advisor or Kimm Thurlow in the parish office for further information.

Q What if my financial situation changes and I am not able to fulfill my pledge?

Your pledge to support the campaign is made in good faith. Should financial difficulty arise, making it impossible for you to continue your payments, please notify the parish office.