



LIVING OUR LEGACY ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE



Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The kick-off for our 2020 - 2022 Capital Campaign is just a few short weeks away. Our Campaign Chairs and their teams have been working hard preparing for our first Information Weekend on September 14 and 15. One of the many fruits of their labor was developing the theme of this campaign: *Living Our Legacy ~ Anticipating The Future*.

These two phrases represent our past and future. During the journey from when our first church was built on Water Street in 1847, to the present day, we and those before us, have been *firmly grounded, persevering in the faith, stable, not shifting from the hope of the gospel (Colossians 1:23)*. We have grown from a small number of families to over 1,600 today, serving not only our parishioners, but through our outreach and other ministries we are making a positive impact in Liberty and the entire Northland. As we continue to grow, we enthusiastically embrace our future, welcoming new families into our parish, providing a beautiful new worship place, and sharing our lives together as part of a thriving St. James community.

In Isaiah 66:1 God said “The heavens are my throne, the earth, my footstool. What house can you build for me?” Over the past 15 months we have been building a “new house” for Him and we can see God’s designs in the beauty and majesty of our new church. In just a few short weeks, on October 19, it will be dedicated to Him by Bishop Johnston as he celebrates the Dedication Mass with Fr. Mike and other members of the clergy.

During the coming weeks, you will be hearing more about this campaign that is focused on paying the \$5.5 million borrowed from the Diocese Deposit and Loan. This loan covers the additional costs beyond what we raised in the current campaign that ends on December 31. We ask you to PRAY daily for our parish leadership, for responsive hearts and for a successful Campaign; INFORM yourselves of our parish vision and goals; and SPEAK warmly and positively to your fellow parishioners, friends and neighbors about our plans, efforts and accomplishments. The prayer for this campaign is printed below.

As we eagerly anticipate celebrating Mass in our new church, let us join together in thanksgiving that our dream of a new church has been realized *This is our time to rejoice.*

In Christ,

Fr. Mike Roach, Pastor

Our Campaign Chairs

Brenda DePalma

Chris Gabriel

Julie Harman

Brad Hover

Rich Venditti

Campaign Prayer

Gracious and loving God,
we thank you for your many blessings,
and turn to you with grateful hearts
in anticipation for what is yet to be.

Bless our capital campaign journey
as we move forward,
placing our trust in You,
with a deepening devotion to prayer,
a spirit of hope,
and a generous sacrificial heart.

Help us grow in love and mercy
as we generously share our gifts
of time, talent, and treasure.

We ask this through the intercession of
St. James, Mary Help of Christians,
and through your Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ.
Amen



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ANTICIPATING THE FUTURE



St. James Catholic Church ~ Liberty, MO

TOWN HALL MEETING ~ JULY 27

When Fr. Mike announced in May that a new capital campaign would be launched next year to pay the debt incurred in building our new church, questions were asked about why we had debt. Didn't we raise enough during the current campaign enough to pay for it? The answer is "no." Thanks to your generous pledges, we raised enough to receive the diocese's approval to build. They also approved the granting of a loan for the difference between what we raised and the cost of the new church.

In order to keep parishioners informed about the progress of our new church, explain our current financial status and provide information about the new campaign that begins in January, a Town Hall Meeting was held on July 27. Fr. Mike opened the meeting with prayer and introduced the 5 campaign chairs. Jim Newell provided details and pictures chronically the construction progress over the past 15 months, beginning with ground breaking on April 15, 2018.

Campaign chair Brad Hover then discussed the history of our past capital campaigns, explained why we have debt and options for paying it as quickly as possible. Highlights from his discussion follow.

- Following extensive input from parish families and those involved in ministries and services, a Master Plan for our St. James campus was developed in 2012. The cornerstone of the plan was the building of a new church. Phase I of the plan was to launch a capital campaign in 2013 to begin raising funds for that purpose. Approximately \$2.9 million was raised, enough to pay off prior debt, construct a new parking lot, leaving \$900,000 earmarked to begin building a church.
- In 2015, a planning study was done. Focus groups and individual interviews were held to determine the feasibility of moving forward with a second Capital Campaign (Phase II). 96% of parishioners said that moving forward with Phase II was the right or acceptable plan. Thus the goal of our current Capital Campaign that began in January 2016 and ends this December was to raise the money, take out a loan and build the church. The campaign has been successful. To date, approximately \$5.6 million has been collected. Added to that amount was the \$1 million match and the \$900,000 carryover from the previous campaign, resulting in a total of \$7.5 million spent to date on the new church.
- The cost of building the church has increased from our original estimate of \$8.2 million in 2012 to \$12.8 million. This change was the result of two factors: (1) inflation between 2012 when the original projection was made and 2017 and the addition of 100 more parking spaces to meet code [cost \$2.5 million] and (2) the decision to finish the lower level during this construction phase [cost \$2.1 million].
- Our loan from the Diocese Deposit and Loan on January 1, 2020 will be approximately \$5.5 million, payable over 15 years. However, depending on the generosity of your contributions to this new campaign, it could be possible to pay the loan off in as little as three years. Details and examples of loan payments and interest saved will be provided in our Capital Campaign brochure that will be available at all Masses on our Information Weekends - September 14/15 and 21/22.

The Town Hall presentation is available on our St. James website and a video of the meeting is available on the St. James Facebook page.



Avid listeners at the Town Hall Meeting



All eyes focused on the presentation.



LIVING OUR LEGACY ~ ANTICIPATING

FAQs

What is going to happen to the current sanctuary, narthex, offices and the social hall? The current sanctuary will be closed. It is our hope that in the future it can be turned into an event center. However, because of the additional cost of renovating it, work on that project cannot begin until the current debt has been paid.

The narthex will remain open. The parish offices will move to the lower level of the new church and the current office space will be turned into a Resource Center, housing a library and meeting rooms. We will continue to use the social hall and kitchen for various events, meetings, and educational opportunities.



What are the compelling reasons for paying the loan in less than 15 years? The faster we pay the loan, the less interest we will pay. If we can pay off the loan during this three-year capital campaign, we would save approximately \$2,2 million. Whether this is possible will depend on the generosity of your pledges.

We encourage everyone to come on board and support this campaign. All contributions make a difference, no matter how small. Remember, you are not just giving to St. James, you are giving back to God.



What accommodations are there to make access into and within the church disabled-friendly? The front of church has a gracefully sloping walkway from the drop off area up to the doors to the narthex. In addition, behind the church there is also a sloping walkway from the back parking lot into the lower level. A wide walkway from the lower entrance leads to an elevator to the main floor. ADA designated parking spaces are distributed throughout both parking areas.

Inside the church, several pews have an end space designated for wheel chair placement. The altar is accessible for all liturgical ministers. There is a ramp from the seating area up to the altar which meets ADA requirements. Additionally, the ambo will also meet ADA requirements. It will be able to adjust to the width of a wheel chair. The height of the ambo can be lowered to accommodate a seated person.



When will the first Mass be held in the new church? The dedication Mass on Saturday, October 19 at 2:30pm will be the first Mass held in the new church. That will be the only Mass on that Saturday.

Beginning the next day, Sunday, October 20, Sunday Mass times will change to 8:00am, 10:30am, and 5:00pm. Saturday Masses will remain at 5:00pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 14 - 15

Information Weekend I - Kickoff
Campaign Information Packets
Available After all Masses

September 21 - 22

Information Weekend II - Kickoff
Campaign Information Packets
Available After all Masses

September 28 - 29

Reflection Weekend I
Called to a Season of Prayer

October 5 - 6

Reflection Weekend II
Called to Acknowledging God's Gifts

October 7 - 8

*Fellowship, Refreshments and
Conversation Gatherings*
Invitations will be mailed to all families
Please RSVP

October 12 - 13

Reflection Weekend III
Giving Back to God

October 19

Dedication of Our New Church
Saturday at 2:30pm
Followed by a Reception
in Our New Parish Hall

October 26 - 27

Reflection Weekend IV
Giving Back With Sacrifice

November 2 - 3

Commitment Weekend I

November 9 - 10

Commitment Weekend II





OUR CAMPAIGN CHAIRS



We are very excited to launch this initiative with all of you and to experience what God has in store for our community. We fully believe that one of the most powerful gifts we've been given is our connection to all of you, through Christ – bringing the Church together toward one goal.

Brenda DePalma



Brenda and her husband, Michael, have been members of the St. James Community for approximately 23 years. She is a member of the St. James Finance Committee and is the President of the Altar Society. She is a Sacristan and a Eucharistic Minister and has previously held offices in the St. James School PTO. Together Michael and Brenda have four children, Anthony, Steven, Ana Marie and Giovanni. Ana Marie attended St. James School and is currently at Liberty North High School. Giovanni is currently enrolled in 8th grade at St. James School.

Brenda was previously a CPA and a CFE (Certified Fraud Examiner) in the public accounting sector and later in private consulting. Currently, she and her husband own and operate a restaurant in Liberty.

Julie Harman



Julie has been a member of St. James for about 25 years. Her 5 children were all baptized here and attended St. James School. She is Vice President of the Parish Council and is one of the leads on the Funeral Dinner Ministry.

She has also served as a Eucharistic Minister, was on the founding committee for the school auction and was in charge of the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the school addition.

She has been a ReMax realtor in the Northland for 15 years. She and her husband enjoy traveling, boating and playing with their grandbabies.

Chris Gabriel



Chris first moved to the Liberty area and began attending St. James in the Fall of 2000. Currently, he serves as the Principal of Lillian Schumacher Elementary in Liberty Public Schools.

Chris and Carrie will celebrate their 16th wedding anniversary in July, The Gabriel's have three children, Grant an 8th grader at Heritage Middle School, Blake a 5th grader at Lewis and Clark Elementary, and Resse a 1st grader at Lewis and Clark Elementary.

Chris led the Ground Breaking Committee as we broke ground on our church. The Ground Breaking encouraged everyone to join together in turning the earth, and Chris encourages all of us to once again join together to continue to move our project forward.

Brad Hover



Brad and his wife Mary have been parishioners of St. James since 2008. They have two grown daughters and eight grandchildren.

Since completing the RCIA program in 2010 Brad has become involved in several ministries at St. James including That Man is You, Knights of Columbus, St. James Food Kitchen. Brad says, "I consider St. James my home church, being confirmed into the Catholic Faith here 9 years ago. I feel a real sense of community here at St. James and feel privileged to be part of a growing parish. I am very excited to be part of a team to build on the success of previous campaigns to help position St. James for further growth in the future."

Rich Venditti



Rich and his wife, Chris, moved to Liberty and became parishioners of St. James in August of 1993. They have three children and five grandchildren. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus, That Man is You, and serves as a Eucharistic Minister, Usher, and is on the Landscape Care Team. He and Chris served as Confirmation Group Leaders for 10 years and in the Baptism Preparation Ministry.

He is retired from the Kansas City Southern Railway after 28 years in Human Resources and Contract Administration. Chris has retired from teaching at St. James Catholic School.