



Dear Friend in Christ,

I hope you're having a blessed New Year and that you are feeling God's love and presence!

In Isaiah 66:1, God said, "The heavens are my throne, the earth, my footstool. What house can you build for me?" As we prepare to build our new church, we are truly answering His call to do great things in our parish and Catholic community.

I want to thank our Steering Committee and team leaders – more than 500 in all! – for answering God's call to serve on the **ELEVATE** capital campaign. They have been working very hard to prepare for this important milestone in our parish's history.

This campaign is first and foremost a spiritual journey (time spent in prayer); it involves hundreds of people (talent in service); and it culminates with a financial gift (treasure). Keep reading for important campaign updates, including our financial goals, FAQs, upcoming events, and for a special prayer created by our Prayer Team. All parishioners are encouraged to get involved so they, too, can be part of our legacy for generations to come.

This is our time to **ELEVATE** our parish and community toward the future. With God's help through faith, prayer, and your generosity it can be done! Together, we will write another chapter in the proud history of St. Wenceslaus.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Tom Bauwens".



Fr. Tom Bauwens
Pastor



“Together, with God's help, through faith, prayer and generosity, we will write another chapter in the proud history of St. Wenceslaus.”

ELEVATE CHAIRS

Rita & Steve Bartlett
Gary & Kathy Gates

Jeff & Lauren Green
Liz Jonas

Eric & Staci Mueller

St. Wenceslaus has a long and proud history of sharing and living our Catholic faith. Originally founded in 1877 and relocated to West Omaha in 1980, it has grown to more than **3,200 households** in our church family, **900 students** in our school, and **400 children and adults** in our religious education programs. Approximately 3,500 parishioners and guests currently celebrate at one of our seven Masses each weekend.

With continued growth projected in the future, we're so grateful that our new church will accommodate more than 1,400 people, and serve as the spiritual home for future generations. But this major investment in the life of our parish comes with a price tag that is too big to overcome without a capital campaign.

The **ELEVATE** campaign aims to accomplish the following financial goals:

**GOAL #1:
Celebration
\$5M**

If we reach the goal of \$5 million, we will save \$2,630,000 in interest.

**GOAL #2:
Challenge
\$8M**

If we reach the goal of \$8 million, we will save \$4,481,000 in interest.

**GOAL #3:
Challenge-Plus
\$12M**

If we reach the goal of \$12 million, we will save \$6,949,000 in interest.

**GOAL #4:
Transformation
\$16M**

If we reach the goal of \$16 million, we will save \$7,566,000 in interest.

Specifically, we have identified four areas for which the campaign funds are needed:

1

Complete the construction of our new church

2

Pay off the loans for the church, land, school improvements, and parking

3

Put our parish in a position of financial strength

4

Prepare for future members and ministry

Please prayerfully consider your role in this important project!

IMPORTANT DATES

February 22-23

Information Weekend 1 – Kickoff

Appeal information packets available at all Masses

February 29-March 1

Information Weekend 2 – Kickoff

Appeal information packets available at all Masses

March 7-8

Inspiration Weekend 1

March 14-15

Inspiration Weekend 2

March 16, 17, 18, 19

Information Campaign Parties

March 21-22

Inspiration Weekend 3

March 28-29

Inspiration Weekend 4

April – June

Commitment Weekends continue

Campaign Celebration TBD

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ELEVATE CAMPAIGN

Q: Why is St. Wenceslaus building a new church and expanding its campus?

A: When the St. Wenceslaus Planning and Leadership teams evaluated the need for expansion, the following were the deciding factors to go forward:

- The land on either side of Pacific Street is estimated to bring in an additional **1,250 households (4,500 people)** to our community in the next 10 years.
- With a decline in active priests in the Archdiocese, St. Wenceslaus will likely be assigned only **1^{1/2} priests by 2030**. This will directly impact how many Masses will be offered.
- We currently have only a few meeting rooms available for our parish groups and ministries. With new parish offices and a renovation of our current offices, we can expand our ministry outreach and offer more meeting spaces.
- The cost of construction goes up an average of 4% every year. In 2015, it was decided to expand our current campus with a school addition and a new parish church and offices to save on these rising costs.
- A campus vision, master plan, capital campaigns, and bank loans will allow St. Wenceslaus to properly meet its growing needs in a more planned and financially responsible way.

Q: Will all of the money raised stay here to fund the needs of St. Wenceslaus?

A: Yes, 100% of the donations pledged during the **ELEVATE** campaign will be used toward our building loans.

Q: Didn't we just have a capital campaign?

A: Yes, our *Building In Faith For Future Generations* concluded in 2018. Here is an overview of our current financial picture as it relates to funds raised and funds needed:

Revenue History of the Ignite the Faith Campaign (2015-2018)

Campaign Pledge Total:	\$7,107,000
Building Savings Account:	\$402,000
TOTAL REVENUE:	\$7,509,000

Allocated Projects from Campaign Funds

School Addition Costs:	(\$3,300,000)
Endowment & Church Improvements:	(\$900,000)
Campaign Contributions to the Archdiocese:	(\$2,300,000)
Administrative & Campaign Expenses:	(\$200,000)
REMAINING FUNDS:	\$809,000

Financials from New Church & Campus Expansion

Cost for the New Church, Parish Offices:	\$31,600,000
Administrative Costs & Campaign Expenses:	\$200,000
Sponsored Expenses:	(\$3,991,000)
The Eileen Ryan Gift:	(\$10,000,000)
Endowments:	(\$1,300,000)
Balance from Previous Campaign:	(\$809,000)
APPROVED LOAN:	\$15,700,000

ST. WENCESLAUS PRAYER

Gracious and loving Father,
as we prepare to build for the future of Your church,
Guide us with Your strength and wisdom
as we come together to meet
the needs of Your people.
Without you we labor in vain,
yet with you we bear much fruit.

Bless our stewardship efforts during Elevate
as we build upon a vibrant faith in our families
and community, now and for future generations,
with Christ as our Cornerstone
and the Holy Spirit as our guide.

Amen

Our Lady of Grace, pray for us!
St. Wenceslaus, pray for us!



St. Wenceslaus by Cecilia Lawrence