

June 6, 2025

Dear St. Mary Parishioners,

We want to share an important update following our recent Parish and Finance Council meeting held on May 21, 2025. We continue to move forward with thoughtful planning around the possibility of expanding our parish facilities in response to growing needs within our community.

After receiving preliminary approval from the Diocese to explore options, we have now entered a critical phase: the Feasibility Study. This study will help determine the practicality and scope of any potential building project. To carry it out thoroughly and professionally, we have contracted with George Joseph at Joseph Consulting from the Quad Cities, who will guide us through the process.

However, George Joseph cannot begin the feasibility study until we have selected an architect. To that end, three architectural firms received Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) on May 21. They have 30 days to submit drawings and proposals, after which interviews will be conducted. Our goal is to select an architect by July 1, 2025.

The feasibility study is expected to take four-six months. During that time, we will gather data, host informational meetings with parishioners, explore financial considerations and begin developing a communication plan, including a booklet to keep the parish informed. We have hired a part-time, paid secretary to help manage communication and support the process — approximately 5-12 hours per week for six months.

A meeting with the Diocesan Building and Grounds Commission was held on May 30, during which we shared our progress and receive additional guidance. While the Diocese has given us the green light to explore this possibility, no final decision has been made to begin construction.

To recap how we arrived here:

- In June 2024, some members of our leadership committees began evaluating space needs — our Masses, parking lot and Faith Formation programs are all at capacity.
- A Building Expansion Committee was formed, and we received Diocesan permission in December 2024 to begin early planning steps.
- In March 2025, we hosted town halls to gauge parish interest and gather feedback.
- In May 2025, we sent out RFQs to three architects and hired George Joseph from Joseph Consulting, as well as met with the Diocese of Davenport Buildings & Grounds Commission.

We are grateful for your continued support and patience as we move through this long-term discernment process.

Please know that our Parish Council, Finance Council and Building Expansion Committee are working closely with Father Joseph and the Diocese every step of the way. We are committed to keeping you updated as more information becomes available.

With gratitude and in faith,

Brian Huddle

On behalf of the St. Mary Parish Council, Finance Council and Building Expansion Committee