ST. MARY
CATHOLIC CHURCH
A PLACE FOR *Everyone,*
A FUTURE FOR *All*

Capital Campaign FAQ

Answers to help you understand the vision, the plan and your role in our parish's future.

As a parishioner, you may have questions about why this campaign is needed, what Phase I includes and how you can participate. These answers are intended to provide clear information and help you prayerfully discern how you are called to support St. Mary.

Understanding the Vision

Why is St. Mary launching a capital campaign?

St. Mary Catholic Church has experienced significant growth in parish life, ministries, Faith Formation, Youth Ministry, and young-family participation. Our current facilities no longer fully support the ways our members gather, learn, serve and grow in faith. This campaign will help St. Mary better form children, support families, build community, and serve both today's parishioners and future generations. It is about more than a building. It is an investment in the life and mission of our parish.

What is included in Phase I?

Phase I addresses the needs parishioners use most often. It includes faith formation classrooms, flexible ministry space, a new multi-purpose room, kitchen-related improvements, site improvements, furnishings, kitchen equipment and the related design and campaign costs. These spaces are intended to serve children, youth, adults, ministries, and parish-wide gatherings.

- Faith formation classrooms
- Multi-purpose room with seating for 350
- Kitchen addition and Kitchenette remodel
- Restrooms
- Additional parking (pave gravel lot)



Why are we doing the educational expansion first?

Faith formation is the most urgent space needed in our parish. St. Mary's serves more than 230 children in K-12 faith formation, and our current rooms cannot adequately accommodate participation, even with staggered schedules. By beginning here, your support directly invests in the next generation and creates better spaces for active learning, prayer, small groups, mentorship, relationships, and a sense of belonging. Building the multipurpose room with the educational expansion will allow us to have a place to hold Mass when the sanctuary is expanded in Phase II.

Why not expand the worship space first?

The parish has discerned that faith formation and ministry space are the most immediate needs for Phase I. These spaces serve children, youth, young adults, families, small groups, and ministries throughout the week. Focusing on them first allows your campaign gift to address the areas currently

affecting the greatest number of parishioners while preserving the broader long-term vision for St. Mary.

Why is a phased approach being used?

A phased approach allows our parish to respond to the most urgent needs while practicing responsible stewardship. It helps manage cost, reduce disruption and align the project with parish feedback and fundraising capacity. For you as a parishioner, this means the project can move forward thoughtfully rather than attempting every part of the long-term vision at once.

How the Plan Was Developed

What did the feasibility study show?

More than 200 parishioners participated through 14 parish-wide informational meetings, 52 confidential interviews representing 76 individuals and 32 completed surveys. The results showed strong confidence in parish leadership, broad support for the proposed master plan, and a willingness among many respondents to consider a financial commitment.

How was the revised Phase I scope determined?

The feasibility study recommended adjusting Phase I so the plan would better reflect what parishioners viewed as most urgent and what the parish could responsibly support. The revised scope focuses on faith formation renovation and improvement, with limited expansion to maintain flexibility, while aligning the project with approximately $6 million in fundraising capacity.

How much will Phase I cost?

The current estimated cost of Phase I is **$6,493,761**. St. Mary has already accumulated **$1 million in its building fund**, leaving an estimated **$5,493,761 to be raised** for the project.

These figures represent current project estimates and may change as design and construction planning progresses. Because the project is substantial, broad participation will be important. A successful campaign will be built through the collective generosity of the parish.

How the Expansion Will Serve You

Will this project support more than children's faith formation?

Yes. Although educational space is a major focus, the new and improved areas are intended for parishioners of all ages. You may see these spaces used by children, youth, young adults, small groups, ministries, parish-wide activities and community gatherings. The goal is to create flexible spaces that can adapt as the needs of our parish evolve.

Why is a multi-purpose room included in Phase I?

Our current multi-purpose room is used for both parish activities and classroom space, but it is not large enough for today's needs. The new multi-purpose room will provide space for formation activities, parish-wide gatherings, and rentals. It will also help preserve the worship space for Mass

and the sacraments. This gives members more appropriate places to gather while respecting the sacred purpose of the church.

Why not simply add more Faith Formation nights or use Sundays?

Wednesday evening remains the most effective time to serve the greatest number of families. The local school district does not schedule activities on Wednesday evenings and most extracurricular activities are intentionally planned around that time.

Adding additional evenings or extending programming into Sundays could create additional scheduling challenges for families, volunteers, catechists, and staff - especially those with multiple children.

The goal is not simply to find more hours on the calendar. It is to create enough space to serve families well during the time when they are already coming together.

Since we have changed to this schedule, we have seen an increase of 72% of attendance from our youth ministry kids over the last four years.

Why does this matter if my family doesn't use Faith Formation?

St. Mary is more than the programs any one family participates in. The spaces created through Phase I are intended to support the entire parish community. They will provide room for ministries, small groups, young adults, families, parish-wide gatherings and community activities in addition to Faith Formation.

More importantly, investing in the formation of children and young people strengthens the future of the entire parish. The children growing in faith today will become the families, leaders, volunteers, catechists, and disciples who carry St. Mary forward tomorrow.

Approval, Participation, and Giving

Has the Diocese approved moving forward?

Yes. St. Mary received approval from the Diocese of Davenport and Bishop Dennis Walsh to initiate a capital campaign for the Phase I expansion of faith formation classrooms, a new multi-purpose room and a kitchen. This approval allows our parish to invite you and every parish family to participate in the campaign.

What was the purpose of the September 20 launch event?

The launch event brought our parish community together to celebrate the capital campaign and learn more about the project. It provided an opportunity for you and other parishioners to hear the vision, understand the Phase I plan, and gather as one parish family. No fundraising took place at the event.

Will every family be asked to participate?

Yes. Every parish family will have the opportunity to participate according to its ability. Participation may include prayer, a financial commitment, volunteer service, encouragement or a combination of

these. The campaign is not built on equal gifts. It is built on shared commitment and meaningful participation.

Are pledges required to be paid all at once?

No. A one-time gift or a pledge through scheduled payments can be made over a 5-year period either monthly, quarterly or annually .

What types of gifts will St. Mary accept?

You may have several ways to support the campaign, including a five-year commitment, securities, an in-kind gift, a qualified charitable distribution from an IRA or 401(k), farm commodities or online giving. Gifts are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. You should consult your financial or tax adviser regarding your individual circumstances.

What happens if the campaign does not reach the full goal?

The campaign plan includes contingencies. If the full goal is not reached, parish leadership will evaluate next steps, which may include adjusting the project's scope or timing to determine how to responsibly move forward.

Are gifts confidential?

Yes. Your gift will be treated confidentially unless you specifically request public recognition.

Can I help beyond making a financial gift?

Yes. Your prayers, encouragement, volunteer service, campaign leadership, and willingness to share the vision all matter. You may be invited to serve in a volunteer role as the campaign progresses. Every contribution of time, prayer, service, or financial support helps make the vision possible.

Does my gift really make a difference?

Yes. This campaign is built on participation across the entire parish community, not on equal gifts. Families have different circumstances and different abilities to give, and every gift should be prayerfully considered in light of those circumstances.

Questions About the Future

Why should we invest in a building expansion when there is a shortage of priests?

It is understandable to ask how this project fits within the broader challenges facing the Church. While priest shortages are a reality, the mission of the parish also depends on strong lay participation, faith formation, discipleship, evangelization and community life. St. Mary continues to grow in parish families, faith formation, youth ministry, and parish involvement.

Your support helps create flexible spaces where these ministries can thrive and where future generations can continue to grow in their Catholic faith, regardless of future clergy assignments.

Why are we expanding if the road leading to the church is still unfinished?

The road project and the church expansion are separate initiatives with different organizations, funding sources, timelines and decision-making processes. St. Mary will continue to work with local

officials and stakeholders regarding roadway improvements while also addressing the ministry needs within our parish.

What if parishes are consolidated in the future?

No one can predict every future decision within the Diocese. What we do know is that St. Mary is currently a growing and active parish, and the need for additional space is based on demonstrated participation in parish life, faith formation, and youth ministry. Phase I spaces are designed to be flexible and adaptable for education, ministry, and community use. Your investment will support Catholic ministry in this region and help St. Mary to serve current and future parishioners.

How does the Annual Diocesan Appeal relate to the Capital Campaign?

The Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA) and the St. Mary Capital Campaign support different, complementary needs. Your ADA gift supports diocesan-wide ministries, including seminarian education, clergy support, Catholic Charities, faith formation resources and other programs serving parishes across the Diocese. Your capital campaign gift supports the local needs of St. Mary, including faith formation classrooms, ministry spaces, and gathering areas. You are encouraged to continue supporting the ADA while prayerfully considering a campaign gift that is appropriate for your family.

Your prayerful participation matters. Together, we can create a place that serves today's parish family and provides a strong future for generations to come.