



F&A



OVERVIEW

What is the fundraising goal of the Grow with Grace capital campaign?

\$500,000

How was the goal decided?

After analyzing the most pressing needs of the parish, conducting donor research, and reviewing ICC's past fundraising performance, estimated figures were produced for the capital campaign. To account for inflation and potential price increases, we also added a 15% contingency.

How much has been raised so far?

\$330,000



How have contractors been invited to bid on the projects?

Over time, we encountered several maintenance issues during the finance and parish council meetings, which we compiled to define the scope of the campaign. To address these issues, we enlisted contractors who were either parishioners, with whom we had previously worked, or had expertise in the required work. We received multiple bids for each project and selected the one that best met our needs and interests.

When will projects begin?

The projects will begin once we have raised the money needed for each phase. Some of the work that is being donated can begin even sooner.



PHASE I QUESTIONS

What does an asbestos abatement mean for Phase I?

Asbestos tiles are present throughout the main church and choir loft. The kneelers in the main area have caused damage to the tiles, resulting in asbestos exposure. To address this issue, an abatement process will be undertaken. This involves removing the tiles and disposing of them off-site in accordance with the guidelines established by the Minnesota Department of Health. Discussions with a candidate contractor are almost finalized.

What type of carpet and flooring would be used within the church?

We are considering two options for the flooring of the church. The first option is to use polished concrete underneath the pews. This will make the floor durable, easy to clean, and resistant to stains, salt, and dirt. The acoustics of the building will remain unaffected. We will use carpeting only in the aisles to give a softer feel and to absorb sound. This will make future maintenance easier. The second option is to keep the current carpeting throughout the church.

Why are we redesigning the sanctuary?

The sanctuary holds a significant space in the Church that is distinct from the rest of the building. It has the dignity of being the place where we celebrate Mass, and Jesus is made present. The sanctuary is meant to be a sanctified area, “set apart” from the rest, and therefore it should receive special attention in our Church. The beauty of the sanctuary should help raise minds and hearts to Heaven during prayer and liturgy.

With the sanctuary redesign, why does the choir move to the choir loft?

The Eucharist is the most significant aspect of our faith, and it is essential to reserve the sanctuary for the sacrifice of the Mass. Our parish greatly values our choir, which plays a vital and beautiful role in the liturgy. However, we need to ensure that our focus during the Mass is on God and what is happening on the altar, and not on each other. Therefore, we aim to avoid presenting the liturgy as a performance and instead as the prayer that it is. Moving the choir brings our sacred space into alignment with the Church’s vision, as outlined throughout the Documents of Vatican II, especially Musical Sacram, and also the USCCB’s Built on Living Stones. This move also enables the choir to perform their important duty while avoiding any distractions from the most crucial parts of the Mass.

What type of wood is going to be used in the sanctuary?

The reredos will be made of oak wood, which will be stained to match the existing wood in the Church. The artist we are collaborating with is from England and is a specialist in creating realistic and impressive religious art using oil on canvas. If you want to see an example of his work, he recently participated in the restoration project at Nativity of Mary in Bloomington.

Why are we using marble for the floor of the sanctuary?

For centuries, marble has been used in sanctuaries to signify the preciousness and beauty of what is happening within the sanctuary - the entry of God into our world through the humble elements of bread and wine. While saving money by using faux tiles, we are embodying the centuries-old tradition of creating a space worthy of the Eucharist. The chosen color of the tiles reflects the deep theological significance of Mary and the moon.

What's going to happen to the pews while the floor is being redone?

During the interior work, we require a storage space for the pews. Both the Parish and Finance Councils have recommended refinishing the pews during this time. This will ensure that there won't be any need for further work on the pews for at least the next 50 years.

Do the kneelers get worked on while the pews are being refinished?

Yes. Complaints regarding our kneelers being worn and hard after years of use will be addressed. The same company we are in talks with to refinish the pews can also put new kneelers in place. This will not only enhance the comfort of our congregation during prayer but also ensure that the pews look uniform and well-maintained. We appreciate the contractor's commitment to providing a comprehensive solution to our needs.

How can we better protect the privacy of those in the confessional?

There are several issues that we have encountered with the confessionals, especially as more and more people have been participating in this beautiful sacrament. One of them is that some people outside of the confessionals are able to hear what is being said. To uphold the secrecy and sanctity of confessions, we are covering the walls with sound-absorbing material to dampen the sound and protect the privacy of those sharing their confessions.

Can we do away with the heavy curtain in the confessional?

Yes. Many penitents prefer a confession face-to-face or behind a screen. A new wall divider will feature a sliding window which is easier to open for those who wish to go face-to-face. This replaces the previous heavy curtain which was difficult for some to move.

Can you tell me more about the new dividing wall in the confessional?

Yes, it's part of our efforts to create a warm, safe, and comfortable environment for the Sacrament of Confession. The lights that indicate when the confessional is occupied will be updated, and a small security window will be installed to prevent any accidental intrusions. Additionally, a dividing wall will be constructed between the priest and the penitent to ensure safety in today's world. Our ultimate goal is to provide a peaceful and anxiety-free space for all faithful to participate in this important Sacrament.

Why was the elevator selected as part of the Phase I projects?

The elevator was breaking down with people inside which presented a problem that had to be fixed immediately. All three companies consulted—Metro Elevator, Minnesota Elevator (who made the current cantilever, limited use limited application elevator), and AllCity Elevator—said it was not possible to install a new elevator due to the current one being a cantilevered system and the current church structure.

So what happens next with the elevator?

Although a brand new elevator was not possible, the existing elevator itself is still in great shape, and only the outdated and faulty electronic components needed replacement to restore its full functionality. This was taken care of and the elevator is now fully operational and up to code. A brand new elevator would require major reconstruction of the entryway, and will be reviewed in the future when we look at the possibility of a gathering space.

Why aren't we making the elevator go to the choir loft?

We have worked with three different elevator companies to discuss elevator options. Unfortunately, we cannot make any structural changes without undergoing a major reconstruction of the entryway, which we plan to do in the future. However, we have taken the expert's advice and replaced the interior components to meet the latest safety codes and regulations. Additionally, ICC is actively working on improving accessibility by remodeling the parish center bathrooms to comply with ADA regulations.



Can we include a gathering space in the back of the church with this capital campaign?

The project is of great interest to many parishioners, and Father is in favor of it. The current capital campaign will serve as a great test to determine if our parish can raise the millions of dollars that would be required for building out the back of the church in the future. If you happen to know someone who can create a project plan and lead the fundraising charge for this project, please contact the parish office. The parish is looking forward to making further improvements of this nature.

If Phase I projects pertain to the inside of church, what happens if the money is raised in the winter?

The work will be completed as we are able. If the capital campaign goal is reached during the winter, we will work with contractors to find a time that works when the weather will be nicer and we can complete the work while having Mass outside.



PHASE II QUESTIONS

What are we doing to address the potholes in the parking lot?

These will be fixed in Phase II. Over the past year, the insurance company has identified the parking lot on the north side of our parish as needing attention. The lot has several potholes that pose a tripping hazard. By repairing and resealing the lot, we can increase its life expectancy and save money in the long term.

What will change on the parish sign out front?

With the updated Mass times, and normal wear and tear, we are going to repaint our exterior sign to be more welcoming and show that we are a current and growing community.



Can we reinsulate when we replace the siding on the west and south sides?

Yes. The plan is to replace the west and south side siding and insulation wrap at the same time. This upgrade will reduce drafts as well as condensation to keep our environment more comfortable throughout the year.

If phase II is about the exterior of the church and its grounds, what are we doing about security?

With the rise of crime and vandalism targeting houses of worship, and after several requests from Carver County for our security system videos to help solve crimes in town, it is important to protect our campus and to provide additional information to the City of Watertown as needed. We will be adding coverage to our parking lot and church building.



FEA



PHASE III QUESTIONS

Why is our boiler operating at such a low efficiency?

According to our annual inspection, it's old age means it's nearing the end of its service life. Phase II includes a project to replace the boiler. This will not only be a necessary replacement to avoid our radiators freezing should the boiler die, but also save considerably on our energy costs for the office and religious education building.

What type of carpet will be used in the religious education building?

The office carpet has endured constant use for Faith Formation and other events, resulting in significant wear and tear. Over the years, it has accumulated several large stains. Consequently, we have decided to replace it with commercial carpet squares that are not only more durable but also easier and more cost-effective to replace in the future.



Can you tell me more about the remodel of the bathrooms in the religious education building?

Our aim is to make both the bathrooms ADA-compliant and easily accessible to our parishioners who visit the office. The work will involve upgrading the toilets, which are currently unhygienic and have two seats, and making both bathrooms on the main floor single-use. Additionally, we will create enough space for wheelchair access and modify the doorway to make it more accessible. Due to similar issues with plumbing and the age of the fixtures, we also plan to upgrade the upstairs bathrooms to be single use.

Is a light for the religious education building parking lot included in the Phase III projects?

No, this is a separate safety issue that is currently being addressed before it becomes dark for the students.