

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

about The St. James Basilica Building Project

Building Community in God's Kingdom

With any capital campaign, questions frequently arise concerning the direction of the effort or the necessity associated with it. Listed below are a few common questions that may come to mind as we prepare to move ahead with the Building Community in God's Kingdom Capital Campaign. If you have others, please contact the parish office.

WHY ARE WE CONDUCTING A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?

In order to keep our parish campus current, it is necessary to update and expand. The building committee, administrative finance committee and pastoral council identified the needs – outlined in the Long Range Plans of 2004 and 2008-- which must be addressed in order to update our campus and to make the improvements necessary to better serve the continued development of our parish community.

WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO BUILD NEW LIVING QUARTERS FOR THE PRIESTS?

For years the priests of St. James Basilica have lived and worked in the same building. This arrangement, while convenient, can be uncomfortable and counterproductive. Since it lacks the separation between work and home, it offers minimal chance to allow one to refresh mentally after a difficult day and offers little privacy. In 2008, Bishop Aquila issued a diocesan wide directive calling for the separation between the parish office and the priests' living quarters. He recognizes the need to improve the living arrangement at the Basilica. Fulfilling this directive will provide the privacy and offer the daily spiritual refreshment our priests require and deserve in order to best serve their parishioners.

WHAT WAS THE AMOUNT OF DOLLARS FROM THE LAST CAPITAL CAMPAIGN (GATHER AND GROW) WHICH WAS DESIGNATED FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE BASILICA?

The total was less than \$30,000 and that amount will be applied toward this campaign.

SINCE WE ALREADY HAVE THE PARISH CENTER AND ZEBEDEE CENTER, WHY DO WE NEED A COMMUNITY ROOM?

The community room will serve a number of functions. It may be used for Wake Services, funeral luncheons for small funerals, Bible studies, Faith Formation programs or to host meetings for conducting parish business. But, first and foremost, the community room will provide a readily-accessible area in which to have "community building" times and events such as bite and beverage following Sunday and/or weekday Eucharists. Its location, adjacent to the west side parking lot, will help encourage worshippers to visit and offer hospitality to fellow parishioners, new people, guests or visitors before leaving. The community room, which will hold up to 100 parishioners, will also be used as a gathering area before funerals. This will allow friends and relatives the opportunity to easily offer condolences and view the body without the troubles of congestion which currently exist when using the parish center.

HOW CAN I PARTICIPATE? CAN I PLEDGE OVER TIME?

Our campaign offers a wide range of gift opportunities to participate at all levels. You may choose a plan that provides you with both flexibility and time to complete the payment of your pledge. Because our needs are urgent, we encourage you to complete your pledge within three years.

Building Community in God's Kingdom

IS MY PLEDGE LEGALLY BINDING?

No. A pledge is a gift, one you consider to be meaningful for you. All we ask is that you do your best and advise us of any financial changes that will impact your pledge.

WILL IT BE CONFIDENTIAL?

All pledges will be kept as confidential as possible. Only the people responsible for maintaining the records will have access to your pledge.

HOW DO WE DETERMINE A PLEDGE AMOUNT FOR EACH FAMILY?

We base our "requested amounts" on a number of items including past giving histories and answers shared in the feasibility study. We ask that you consider a gift above your normal tithe.

WHO IS BEING ASKED TO SUPPORT THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN?

Everyone who is a member of St. James Basilica will be asked to consider a donation to help us reach our goal. Additionally, since we are building a new living quarters for our priests and they serve the members of St. Mathias, St. Margaret's and St. Michael's, the parishioners at those parishes will be asked to consider a contribution as well.

HOW WILL THE OFFICE BE RENOVATED?

We need to move our receptionist to an area in the rectory that's more visitor friendly. To do this, Sister Michaeleen will move into another office and her current workplace will be remodeled into a receptionist area/office. We're also adding two family, handicapped accessible restrooms and renovating the stairs leading up to the church and down to the parish center.

WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE RECTORY ONCE THE PRIESTS MOVE INTO THEIR NEW HOME?

Both floors will be used for office and some storage space.

WHY DO WE NEED A MAINTENANCE GARAGE?

Simply put, Paul has run out of space to store the equipment used to maintain the campus grounds. A new heated maintenance garage will provide the much needed room for snow removal equipment and for Paul to keep them in working condition. Other items such as the nativity display, which is currently housed in the priests' garage, may be kept in the maintenance garage.

WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO CREATE ADDITIONAL PARKING?

Currently many parishioners are forced to park on the street or at a local business. The need for increased parking was identified in the parish long range plan of 2008. Adding a parking lot north of the Basilica will provide increased opportunities for parking on what's considered parish grounds and help to better serve our parishioners—they will be able to come into the church either through the west entrance or the north entrance of the church. At the same time it will provide parking for events taking place at the Knights of Columbus who provide substantial financial support to the parish and St. John's Academy.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit and for courage to follow the Lord's plan for us. All our parish households will be asked to prayerfully consider how they may financially support our capital campaign to the best of their abilities. To build the physical structures for our parish, we must join together as a community. The generations before us built many of our present facilities. Now it is our responsibility as parish families to come together as one and accomplish this goal.