

SACRED HEART of JESUS CATHOLIC PARISH *and* SCHOOL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

When was Sacred Heart's last capital campaign?

Our most recent campaign was the Berkel Initiative in 2014–2015 (*with the pledge redemption ending in 2017*). Inspired by the extraordinary generosity of Charles Berkel – a former parishioner who left a \$1.5 million legacy gift and a 20-year donor-advised fund gift – we invited the parish to match his \$1.5 million gift. And we did! Those funds helped us eliminate our remaining debt from the church and school expansion. We celebrated the full payoff of that debt in April 2023.

Is now really the right time to build?

While it may never feel like the “perfect” time, we’re reminded of the old wisdom: *“If you wait for perfect conditions, you’ll never get anything done.”* We are discerning this next step through prayer and relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, who has been with us through every chapter of our parish’s growth.

In just the past 18 months, we’ve watched the Holy Spirit move powerfully in our parish. As we introduced the Five Foundation Stones – Eucharistic Encounters, Reconciliation, Scripture, Fasting, and the Rosary – our community responded with open hearts. The fruits have been unmistakable: Mass attendance has grown by 25%, 92% of our Adoration hours are now filled, participation in Reconciliation has increased, and nearly 40 people are preparing to enter the Church through OCIA.

These are clear signs that our parish is alive and growing. Now is the time to prepare faithfully for the future – building spaces that support our mission, welcome more people into our parish life, and ensure we can continue forming disciples for generations to come.

What are the current cost estimates for Phase I?

We have partnered with Straub Construction and Clark Architects to guide us every step of the way – ensuring that we account for everything needed while keeping current market pricing in mind. Construction pricing can fluctuate, and until a contract is signed, our estimates are our very best projections.

Based on today's market, the estimated costs for Phase I are:

- **School Basement** | 14,000 sq. ft.: \$2.8 million
- **Church Basement** | 8,112 sq. ft.: \$1.5 million
- **Meeting Room Addition** | 1,279 sq. ft.: \$752,000
- **Adoration Chapel** | 540 sq. ft.: \$778,000
- **Renovating Existing Space** | 2,411 sq. ft.: \$319,000

These figures also include “soft costs” such as architectural and engineering fees, site preparation, fixtures, furnishings, and other essentials needed to deliver complete, usable spaces.

Please note: Certain religious elements of the Adoration Chapel – such as liturgical furnishings, art, or sacred installations – have yet to be priced and may affect the final cost.

Can the parish handle debt if needed?

Thanks to your faithful tithing and a generous long-term benefactor gift that continues through 2034, our parish currently enjoys the healthiest balance sheet in 25 years – with zero debt. This strong financial footing gives us flexibility, but Fr. Zarse and our leadership team remain firmly committed to fiscal responsibility.

We will not move forward with any project that would overextend the parish. Our strategy focuses on three priorities:

- Continuing to grow parishioner tithing,
- Responsibly managing any short-term borrowing only if absolutely necessary, and
- Building our parish endowment to provide for future generations.

(over)



See the vision. Hear the call. Be the spark.

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Will these finished spaces increase our operating costs?

Yes, any capital improvement brings some increase to our operating budget – but we are carefully planning for that as part of our overall financial strategy. Our goal is to ensure these added costs do not burden our parishioners, while still supporting the growth we anticipate as more hearts are drawn into deeper relationship with Jesus through our mission. As good stewards of your tithing, we are committed to using every dollar wisely – meeting the needs of our community today and into the future, without compromising our financial health.

When would we start building?

According to Archdiocesan guidelines, we must first document committed pledges. Once that is secured, the Archdiocese requires that 50% of the total pledged amount be in cash before we can sign a construction contract and break ground.

With a typical three-year pledge redemption period, we estimate reaching the 50% cash requirement by late 2026 or early 2027 – unless we receive a higher percentage of cash gifts early in the campaign. Every early or upfront gift accelerates our timeline and directly helps minimize disruption to parish and school life.

Because school construction would directly affect classroom spaces and student routines, it's important for that work to begin during the summer months when students are not in session. We are prayerfully working toward having at least 50% of pledged funds in cash by June 1, 2026 so we can begin construction in summer 2026; if it takes longer, work would likely need to wait until summer 2027.

As always, we place this timeline in God's hands and trust in the generosity and faithfulness of our parish family.

If we raise more than \$7 million, where will those dollars go?

Should we be blessed to exceed our \$7 million goal, additional funds will be used with prayerful discernment and fiscal prudence to strengthen both our immediate projects and our long-term mission.

- **First Million Beyond \$7 Million – Investing directly Into Phase I:** The first \$1 million raised above our goal will immediately be directed to Phase I projects. This ensures we can address cost fluctuations, unforeseen construction needs, or enhancements without reducing our current plans. These dollars will be carefully managed to safeguard parish resources and complete Phase I as envisioned.
- **Beyond the First Million – Securing Our Future:** Any remaining funds beyond that first \$1 million will go directly to growing our parish and school endowment, moving toward our \$5 million principal goal. At that level, our endowment would provide approximately **\$250,000 every year – in perpetuity – **creating a second stream of revenue that secures our mission and strengthens Sacred Heart for generations to come.

What will Phase II include?

We are continuing to prayerfully discern what Phase II will look like. We're intentionally taking a stair-stepped approach, focusing first on the success of Phase I. If we reach our Phase I goal within the planned timeframe, we could begin preparing for Phase II as early as the completion of Phase I construction. The scope and timing of Phase II will ultimately depend on the needs of the parish, our financial capacity, and where we sense the Holy Spirit leading us next.

2 TIMOTHY 1:6a

MISSION INVESTMENT

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