



Campaign Newsletter *No.2*

March 30 - 31, 2019

How would you give witness...During all Masses this weekend, we heard members of our St. Mary's family give witness to their love of St. Mary's and why supporting this campaign to build Phase One (Worship Space, Gathering Space/Narthex, Small Administration Center, Covered Canopy and Bell Tower) of our Master Plan is important to them. If you were asked to give witness, what would you share? How has St. Mary's impacted your life and your family's life? Our hope is that you will spend time in prayer in the days to come, reflecting on our Church of St. Mary in preparation of your support of the campaign.

Commitment Weekend...Next weekend, April 6-7, is Commitment Weekend for our ***Forward in Faith Capital Campaign***. Many members have signed up to volunteer after all weekend Masses to assist parishioners in getting their confidential pledge packets to make a financial commitment to our campaign. Campaign leadership, volunteers and Church leadership will be on hand after each Mass to answer questions and to invite parishioners to consider their campaign commitment.

After all Masses next weekend, we ask all parishioners to pick up their pledge card packets. You may fill out your pledge card that day, seal it in the envelope provided and place it in the designated basket on the table. If you prefer, you may also take the pledge card home and return it the following weekend by placing it in the collection basket or drop it off at the Church office.

We are hoping for full participation from our St. Mary's community. No gift is too small and no gift is too large. We are asking for equal sacrifice, not equal gifts. Every gift will be appreciated.





Please find answers to our more frequently asked questions.....

When are we going to start building our new church? We plan to start building our new church facilities this summer following the successful completion of the ***Forward in Faith Capital Campaign.***

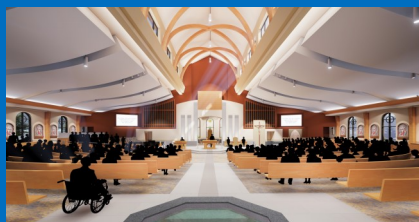
Will we be able to have funerals in our new church with room for eating? Yes, we will be having parish funerals in our new church. The attached gathering space with its catering kitchen will have available seating space for approximately 200 for after funeral dining and fellowship.

Will we be having a sloped floor? Approximately 264 seats will be located on the flat floor and about 520 seats will be on the slightly sloped floor.

If we make a pledge, when do we start paying on the pledge? Pledge payments will begin in May, 2019. All parishioners will have a special ***Forward in Faith*** envelope with their monthly church envelopes. If you opt to have your funds automatically deducted from your account, that will also begin in May.

Are we going to borrow money for the construction of our new church? Why is the insurance money not enough to build the new church? The Finance Council and Parish Council for St Mary's are committed to not borrowing any money above the Capital Campaign pledges to be received. In addition, we need to be and want to be fiscally responsible. This means that we want to build what we can afford, and this is the way we are starting with this first phase. Our new church structure and related facilities will include more square footage because of the worship space plus the gathering space, catering kitchen and small administrative section. Furthermore, with all new construction or re-construction, additional regulations must be addressed resulting in additional costs for meeting current building codes, energy efficiency standards, storm-water and parking requirements, land coverage regulations, etc. The insurance settlement did not compensate St Mary's for the additional costs to comply with these mandates and requirements applicable to new construction and re-construction projects alike.

What parts of the fire-damaged former church structure might/will be used in the new church facilities? Because the fire-damaged former church structure is currently subject to a lawsuit brought against St Mary's, it is unknown what parts may become available for use in the new church. Current new church construction plans are making provisions to incorporate the stained-glass windows and the bells – if they become available at the conclusion of the lawsuit. The stations of the cross and other statuary have already been removed for use in our new church facilities.



Key Dates for Forward in Faith

March 30-31 – Witness Weekend

April 6-7 – Commitment Weekend

April 13-14 – Follow-Up Weekend

April 20-21 – EASTER



GIVING THOUGHTS

Pledges: Pledges are a commitment of support to the church over a two-year period of time. This commitment can be fulfilled through monthly, quarterly, semiannual or annual installments. If possible, a 10% initial investment toward your pledge is suggested. To make the process even easier, EFT is available to automatically make pledge payments.

Commodities: For donors who actively engage in farming on a cash basis, significant tax savings can be found through donating grain directly.

(please always check with your tax advisor on how to maximize your giving)