

From the Pastor's Desk

Securing Our Foundation: The Importance of A Capital Campaign

Last week I included a chart of the repair/upgrade projects and their associated costs that make up the capital campaign *Generations: Rooted in Tradition* beginning late May. The chart underscored the importance of each initiative and the collective effort required to achieve them.

Our buildings, which have long been the heart of our community, require essential repairs and updates to ensure their longevity and functionality. The capital projects included in this campaign are carefully designed to protect our assets and lay the groundwork for our future endeavors.

Below is a FAQ section that provides more detail on the projects approved to be done and supported by the *Generations: Rooted in Tradition* campaign.

This capital campaign is a significant step toward securing the future of our beloved parish. This campaign, endorsed by both the finance council and parish council, is crucial for preserving our assets and creating a lasting legacy for generations to come.

I invite each member of our congregation to begin considering how you can contribute to this vital campaign. Your support, whether through financial contributions, volunteering time and skills, or spreading the word, is invaluable in making our vision a reality.

Together, let's build a stronger, more vibrant community—one that honors our past, embraces the present, and prepares for a flourishing future. Thank you for your dedication and generosity.

God's Blessings, Fr. Jared Orndorff, pastor

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Why install a LULA elevator & accessible bathroom?

There are a number of parishioners who are dealing with mobility issues. For them to be able to fully participate in the fellowship at St. Joseph Church a LULA is needed. A LULA is a "Limited Use, Limited Application" elevator. The LULA is a compact elevator that can hold up to two individuals and is specially design for someone in a wheelchair or using a walker to get from one floor to another. Many of our activities outside of mass take place in Nolan Hall on the lower level of the church. Currently only accessible by stairs, Nolan Hall is

not available to everyone. This limits the experience of fellowship for a number of parishioners and reduces the number of activities that can be held in Nolan Hall. As well, once the LULA is installed, an accessible bathroom is required due to Ohio building codes.



Why do all buildings need an electrical services replacement?

Because St. Joseph campus buildings were built in 1912, 1923, 1951, and 1960; the electrical infrastructure does not meet the needs of 2024. In these buildings, much of the original wiring and panels still exists.

In fact, the City of Cuyahoga Falls will be upgrading most electric down by the riverfront, which will impact the St. Joseph Parish buildings. The electrical pane for Gallagher Hall (school bldg.) and Jones Hall (gym bldg.) are incompatible with what is being installed by the City of Cuyahoga Falls and must be upgraded.

What is wrong with the external ramp and some of the external stairs of the church?

The concrete ramp is in need of some repairs as it was built in the 1990s. As well, with the addition of the LULA, we anticipate greater use of the ramp. Also, some of the external steps at various entrances to the church are loose and in need of repair to ensure parishioner safety.

Why new roofs for the Church and Gallagher Hall ?

It is only the 40-year-old peaked roof of the church that needs to be replaced. The other flat roofs of the church were redone during the Raise the Roof campaign in 2017. It is critical to get the peaked roof done because due to its age, it is no longer covered by insurance. The Gallagher Hall roof leaks. Leaks have been repaired multiple times over the years. Patching leaks is no longer working. It is time for a complete redo of the entire roof.

What's wrong with the church carpeting?

The carpeting in the church is over 30 years old. It is beginning to sag and wrinkle in spots and is too brittle to stretch. It is also layered over older carpeting and even older tile.

What happened to the pews?

From sanitizing during the pandemic, the finish of the pews was damaged. As well, some pews need repairs. It is time to strip, stain, & refinish the pews. The pews will need to be removed from the church building to be redone. We are hopeful this will be done at the same time we are putting down new flooring. We also want to add pads to the pews to make the time spent in church more comfortable.

Why new windows in Jones Hall (gym building)?

The Jones Hall windows are original and were installed in 1960. They are one-pane glass with seals that have broken down. Investing in windows that are more energy efficient will save the parish costs on heating & cooling bills as well as be more attractive to possible tenants.

More From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Parishioners,

As the weather begins to warm up and we look forward to enjoying the beauty of spring and summer, I want to take a moment to reflect on the importance of dressing modestly and appropriately as we gather for Mass and other church activities.

As followers of Christ, our outward appearance is an expression of our inner values and beliefs. Our dress should reflect the dignity of our bodies, which are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19). Therefore, dressing modestly is not merely a matter of fashion or personal preference, but a reflection of our commitment to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Modesty in dress is a virtue that helps to foster an atmosphere of reverence and respect, particularly in the sacred space of our church. When we come to Mass or participate in church events, our attire should be appropriate and respectful, out of reverence for the sacredness of the occasion and out of consideration for others in the worshipping community. Here are a few practical reminders for dressing modestly and appropriately:

- ✠ **Avoid Revealing Clothing:** Choose clothing that covers the body appropriately and avoids revealing too much skin. This includes avoiding excessively low-cut tops, short skirts or shorts, and clothing that is overly tight or form-fitting.
- ✠ **Respectful Attire for Mass:** When attending Mass, consider dressing in a manner that reflects the solemnity of the occasion. For men, this may mean wearing collared shirts and dress pants. For women, modest dresses, skirts, or dress pants are appropriate choices.
- ✠ **Consider the Community:** Be mindful of the diverse age groups and backgrounds present in our parish community. Dressing modestly shows respect for others and helps to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for everyone.

Let us remember that our ultimate goal is to honor God in all that we do. By dressing modestly and appropriately, we demonstrate our reverence for God and our respect for one another. As we continue to grow in faith and love for the Lord, let us also strive to cultivate a spirit of modesty and humility in all aspects of our lives, both inside and outside the church walls.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and may God bless each of you abundantly!

Fr. Jared Orndorff, Pastor