

St. Columba Parish Campus Plan & Construction

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Remind me what improvements are included in Phase 1 of our 10-year Plan*?

- *Church Upgrades (electrical, fire alarm, sound upgrades, replacement of HVAC system and new fire suppression system, steeple work, and windows)*
- *Remodel Entry*
- *Narthex Addition & Patio*
- *Sitework (curbs, gutters, sidewalks, landscaping, etc.)*
- *Hauser Fire Safety—New modern code-compliant fire alarm system and fire sprinkler system*
**Please note, our architectural plan for Phase 1 is finalized—set and submitted. Any changes to our construction plan at this point are unlikely, since changes would impact cost and schedule.*

When will construction begin?

- *We are anticipating we will receive our construction permits from the city by mid-September.*
- *If all proceeds as scheduled, our contractor, FCI, will begin mobilizing equipment, safety fencing, and materials on campus the week of September 14.*
- *Foundation work is the first step of construction, which is scheduled to begin as early as September 21.*

When will the church be closed for worship and other events?

- *Foundation work necessitates the removal of our ADA ramp, and as soon as that happens, the church building will be closed to the public. A temporary ramp is too costly and would only increase church access by a few weeks.*
- *We anticipate Masses will be moved to the gym as early as September 26.*
- *School Masses will be held on Mondays at 8:15 AM beginning August 31.*
- *All other daily Masses will take place in the parish office chapel.*
- *Work inside the church entry area is scheduled to begin in early October. The Narthex addition will follow, and construction is scheduled to be complete in June 2027.*

How long will the church be closed?

- *We anticipate the church renovation and Narthex addition will take 8–9 months and will be complete with a certificate of occupancy being issued in June 2027.*
- *It is possible we might be able to apply for a temporary certificate of occupancy for the church before the Narthex construction is entirely complete, but that scenario will depend on a number of factors.*

How will construction affect parking?

- *The parking lot will be closed as soon as construction begins.*
- *The alley way will remain open for through traffic, and the fence along the asphalt playground area will be open on the weekends to allow for some parking spots close to the gym.*
- *Remaining parking will be dispersed in the surrounding neighborhood, as usual. The office building parking lot north of the library parking lot and the parking spots on the adjoining streets will be readily available for use.*

- *Please observe our neighbors' access to their property and driveways. Please do not block driveways, sidewalk entry, or any access points.*

Liturgies in the gym? How will we ensure a reverent and meaningful experience for all?

- *Our mission does not change just because our location changes. Liturgy means work of the people, so together we will strive to ensure that our moments and acts of communal worship are marked by an atmosphere of recollection and reverence.*
- *We recognize that celebrating Mass in a gym is different from worshipping in our church, and we understand that many people may have questions about how this will feel. Our goal is to create a space that is meaningful, beautiful, and worthy of the sacred liturgy.*
- *Quiet reverence will be important since sound in the gym may echo more. We must do everything possible to foster an environment that allows everyone to encounter Jesus in our gathering.*
- *While the setting will be temporary, the heart of the Mass remains unchanged: Christ is truly present in the Eucharist, and our community gathers to worship Him together.*

How will chairs in the gym be set up and taken down each week?

- *We will need volunteers to help set up approximately 300 chairs on Saturday afternoons. This would take 9–10 people less than 20 minutes to complete. When possible, chairs will remain set up all weekend through Monday morning's school Mass.*
- *We will be asking for volunteers to sign up to set up chairs on Saturday afternoons. **Perhaps you or your ministry or your family might consider helping out a few times? Details to sign up will be shared soon.***
- *Some chairs will be removed by Mass participants after the 4 PM Mass to allow room for youth ministry activities when needed.*
- *School students and families will take down the chairs after Monday morning's school Mass.*

What will be done to address sound quality in the gym?

- *A generous donor has sponsored a hearing-assist capability for the church that we hope to use in the gym, as well. The equipment is on order and should arrive soon.*
- *Details about how this system works will be shared once it has been installed.*

How will the school be affected by construction?

- *Accommodations will be made wherever and whenever necessary to ensure school operations will not be interrupted.*
- *Safety fencing will surround all construction and staging areas, ensuring the campus is safe for everyone, including our students.*
- *School families will be contacted directly about any construction impacts, such as new student drop-off and pick-up routes.*

Will weekly Adoration and Confession still happen?

- *Yes, Adoration and Confession will continue to occur weekly on Fridays 4:30–5:30 PM.*
- *The location may vary depending on activities on campus.*
- *Confessions can also be set up by appointment through the church office.*

What does construction mean for weddings and funerals during the 8-9 months the church is closed?

- *We are actively working on alternatives to the dilemma that the church will not be available for these types of liturgies.*
 - *Sacred Heart is an option.*
 - *The gym is available only at certain times.*
 - *For small events, our parish office chapel is available.*

I have questions about how my ministry will be affected during construction. Who should I talk to?

- *Contact your ministry lead or staff member associated with your group. As we finalize plans, they will share information with their teams. We will ensure that school operations will not be interrupted, choir practice will continue, youth ministry will have a safe place to meet for activities, and all of our ministries will proceed as best we can—so we can continue offering people the abundance they long for through life with the Lord.*

I serve as a liturgical minister at Mass. How will I know what to do when we are holding Mass in the gym?

- *All liturgy teams will receive communication and training about how our liturgies will happen in this new, temporary space.*
- *We expect there will be hiccups for the first few weeks! We ask for and offer patience with one another as we navigate a sacred, prayerful, uplifting experience for all.*

Will the Narthex have enough space to host parish meetings at certain times?

- *Yes, the open space will allow 48 seats at round tables or 70 chairs in theater style. This size is similar to our current Parish Center.*
- *Concealed behind doors is a compact hospitality station with a sink, storage, and other conveniences to support fellowship gatherings and receptions.*
- *Use of the Narthex as a meeting space will be scheduled to never conflict with liturgies.*

How does our Phase 1 budget look? Are all the funds raised yet?

- *Our early cost estimates have proven to be very solid and our construction bids are on target.*
- *We have received pledges and commitments of approximately \$6 million toward our \$6.2 million fundraising goal. Pledges are being fulfilled as expected, and we are counting on that to continue for the next year and a half. **Please continue to follow through on your three-year pledge commitments, as all pledged dollars are needed for this work to proceed.***
- *The remaining funds needed will come from a window renovation sponsorship opportunity, as well as possible grants.*

Tell me more about our window renovation project.

- *All of our stained-glass windows will be removed, sent to Evergreen, CO and professionally re-stained and re-glazed. One exception: the large round window under the belfry was refurbished most recently, and it does not need to be renovated at this time.*
- *The restoration will be completed by experienced stained-glass artisans who specialize in the conservation of historic church windows, ensuring the work follows professional preservation standards.*

- *Wood framing for the windows will be repaired and then the windows will be reinstalled, and some painting will be required.*
- *In addition, double-paned, clear-glass windows will be added to the outside to shield the stained glass from weather and temperature extremes, while improving energy efficiency. This system will protect the stained glass for decades.*
- *We have a long tradition of parishioner participation in the production and restoration of our stained-glass windows—you see family/donor names in the glass itself and on the brass plaques below. Our stained-glass windows tell the story of our parish and reflect the faith and generosity of previous generations.*
- *We will again offer the opportunity for parishioners to sponsor the restoration and preservation of our stained glass. This is often done in honor or memory of a loved one.*
- *There will be approximately 20 windows available for sponsorship. We are currently planning for 17 to be available for individuals, families or groups to sponsor and a few more will be offered as a community-wide opportunity for participation.*
- *Requests for specific window art or location will be taken into consideration but cannot be guaranteed for a variety of factors. We will do everything possible to honor your wishes.*
- *Individual window sponsorship will be \$7,500 to help cover the true costs of restoration.*
- *Current campaign gifts cannot be “applied” to a window sponsorship—this is a new initiative.*
- *Community-wide sponsorship details will be shared at a later date.*
- *Names of the original donors and previous sponsors will be preserved in the same location they exist now, with the exception of a few windows that are being relocated.*

When can I sign up to sponsor a window?

- *If you are interested in window sponsorship, please contact the parish office to add your name to our “Window Sponsorship Interest List.”*
- *Window sponsorships will be available on a first-come, first-served basis, so make your intentions known early if this might be something of interest to you.*
- *Expressing interest early does not guarantee a window will be available for you to sponsor, as this type of window sponsorship is limited to about 17 windows.*
- *Window sponsorship details will be finalized by October 1.*

More details about the future (and how we got here)

Remind me how many Phases are in our 10-year Plan?

- *We have planned for 3 phases in our 10-year plan*

What improvements will be addressed in Phase 2, and when will it start?

- *Elementary School Improvements: Replace existing windows, new gym floor, new carpeting, new acoustical ceilings, furr out and insulate the exterior walls, roof upgrades, etc.*
- *We will roll right into Phase 2 once construction of our Narthex is complete in 2027.*

What is planned for Phase 3?

- School HVAC and functional upgrades
- Building Addition: Parish Commons*

** A **Parish Commons** is a multipurpose space which provides space for a large gathering of 100 people with tables of 8, more with classroom/lecture seating. This space would be used for funeral receptions, education, retreats, meetings, school lunch, and school events.*

How was project priority determined within the 10-year Campus Plan?

- *We considered our church mission and recognized gathering space in the church to be critical for our mission of making disciples and evangelization. These would be visible improvements that we could accomplish with the funding available and were mentioned frequently in Town Hall meetings and feedback from parishioners.*
- *We addressed necessary, long-deferred maintenance issues for the church and school.*
- *We tried to focus on needs versus wants.*

What is the history of recent campus planning decisions and the development of our 10-year and long-range plans?

- *In 2022, our parish formed a Visioning Group to begin contemplating God's will for the future of St. Columba Church and School. By the end of 2023, we were requesting proposals to work with a capital campaign consultant to guide our fundraising efforts and an architectural firm to help us develop a master plan.*
- *Throughout those two years, we held dozens of Town Halls and Information Sessions to get feedback from hundreds of people. We conducted a feasibility study survey with 376 respondents, held focus groups and design charrettes with more than 50 community members, and engaged more than 100 people in campus planning and campaign team leadership. We thank you all for your input and participation in this community-driven process. The campus planning committee took all feedback into consideration when working with our architects and construction experts to determine our best path forward to achieve our vision. This group discernment process was highly successful.*
- *In 2024 and 2025 we launched into our three-year Living Stones Capital Campaign and began collecting pledges and receiving funds toward our \$6.2 million goal for Phase 1.*
- *In 2025 and 2026 we proceeded through the construction design phase and into the construction documents phase, requesting and reviewing two contractor bids and selecting a general contractor in July 2026.*