LOOKING BACK WITH GRATITUDE
MOVING FORWARD WITH PURPOSE

A capital campaign to renew St. Mary's campus for generations to come.

UPDATED OCT. 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

Campus Renewal Campaign · October 2026 Update

1 Why was the building project necessary?

The original school building at St. Mary's, constructed in 1910, remained in use until the end of the 2021–22 school year. Over time, the structure had begun to show significant signs of age and deterioration, ultimately failing to meet the annual safety inspection requirements. Faced with a difficult decision, the community had a clear choice: either discontinue the educational program at St. Mary's School or move forward with the construction of a new facility.

2 Why did we proceed with the project without having all the funds raised?

With the recommendation of the school's Educational Advisory Council (EAC), Bishop DeGrood, Fr. Shane D. Stevens, and the Parish Finance Council made the determination to move forward with the construction project after exceeding the Diocesan requirement of securing 50% of financial commitments prior to commencement. The closure of the original building—determined during the 2021–2022 school year—further underscored the urgency of proceeding. During the construction phase, unforeseen expenses were identified, and historic inflation significantly contributed to the financial shortfall.

3 What is the goal and timeline, and where do we stand today?

The goal of the second capital campaign, *Moving Forward with Purpose*, is to fully repay the debt incurred (and loan interest) from the construction of the new school building and the renovation of the 1957 wing. Our debt retirement goal is **January 2030**. Paying off the loan early, rather than over the full term, is estimated to save nearly **$1.9 million in interest**.

Total Pledged / Received
$10,560,921

Building Cost
$14,889,058

71% of the total loan retired

Remaining balance as of Oct. 2026: **$4,328,137**

4 What is the "Meet the Match" challenge? NEW

Generous benefactors have offered a **$300,000 Matching Challenge**. Every dollar given or newly pledged to reduce our building debt through **December 31, 2026** will be matched 1-for-1 up to $300,000—your $100 becomes $200, and your $5,000 becomes $10,000. Cash gifts and pledges, IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions, and corporate matching gifts all count. See the enclosed *Meet the Match* detail for more.

13.4%
of our remaining building debt eliminated

75%
of the overall debt retired when the match is met

$180,000+
in interest costs permanently eliminated

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5 How did you come up with the campaign request amounts?

To reach our goal, we humbly and gratefully ask each family to prayerfully consider making a pledge that is both proportionate and sacrificial. This campaign is a vital investment in the future of our school and parish community—one that will bless generations to come, just as we have been blessed by the generosity of those who came before us.

For the 2025 *Moving Forward with Purpose* campaign, we invited families to consider a gift equal to 80% of their original 2022 contribution. If all 412 original donors are able to commit at this level, we will reach our goal. We also understand that circumstances vary, and if some families are moved to give above the 80% level, their generosity will help offset the gap for those who may not be in a position to give as much at this time.

Above all, we are deeply grateful for every gift—of any size—and for the continued faith, support, and commitment of our St. Mary's community.

6 Why do we ask for pledges?

The campaign emphasizes pledging because it allows donors to consider larger commitments than they might be able to make through a one-time gift. Past experience has shown that donors who pledge often give four to five times more than those who contribute a single gift, an important factor in a campaign of this magnitude. New pledges made through December 31, 2026 also count toward the $300,000 Matching Challenge.

To ensure every gift is accurately recorded and acknowledged, we ask donors to complete a Donor Pledge Form. While these pledges are not legally binding, they are made in good faith and reflect a donor's commitment to support the campaign over a schedule and method of their choosing.

7 Are gifts to the campaign tax deductible?

Yes, gifts to the campaign are tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law. However, the application of tax laws can vary based on individual financial circumstances. Donors with specific questions about the deductibility of their contributions are encouraged to consult their attorney or tax advisor.

8 Who will be asked to participate in the campaign?

Everyone! In the initial 2022 capital campaign, parishioners of St. Mary's Church, St. Mary's School families, friends, alumni and Dell Rapids community members were asked to support this important initiative for our beloved school. In the 2025 *Moving Forward with Purpose* campaign we re-approached those whose support was requested in 2022, and new donors continue to be identified for support of this endeavor.

9 Will there be additional capital campaigns in the future?

At this time, there are no immediate plans for another capital campaign beyond *Moving Forward with Purpose*. However, as with any growing and evolving faith and school community, future needs may arise. Should that happen, any decision to proceed with additional capital campaigns will be made only with the clear support and guidance of our stakeholders, including parishioners, school families, leadership councils, and donors.

We are committed to open communication and shared discernment, ensuring that any future campaign truly reflects the will and priorities of our community.

Questions about gifts or payment options?

Contact Jeff Trumbauer, Chief Operating Officer, in the pastorate office at **605.428.3990** or **coo@queenofpeacesd.org**. Give online anytime at **queenofpeacesd.org/giving**.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

MATCH ENDS DEC. 31, 2026

Meet the Match

A Turning Point to Secure the Future of St. Mary's School!

St. Mary's School Family and Friends,

We are excited to announce that generous benefactors have offered a $300,000 Matching Challenge to eliminate 13.4% of our total remaining building debt by December 31, 2026. This exciting opportunity will allow you to **DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026.**

Every dollar given or new pledge to reduce our building debt will be matched 1-for-1 up to $300,000. **Your $100 becomes $200. Your $5,000 becomes $10,000.**

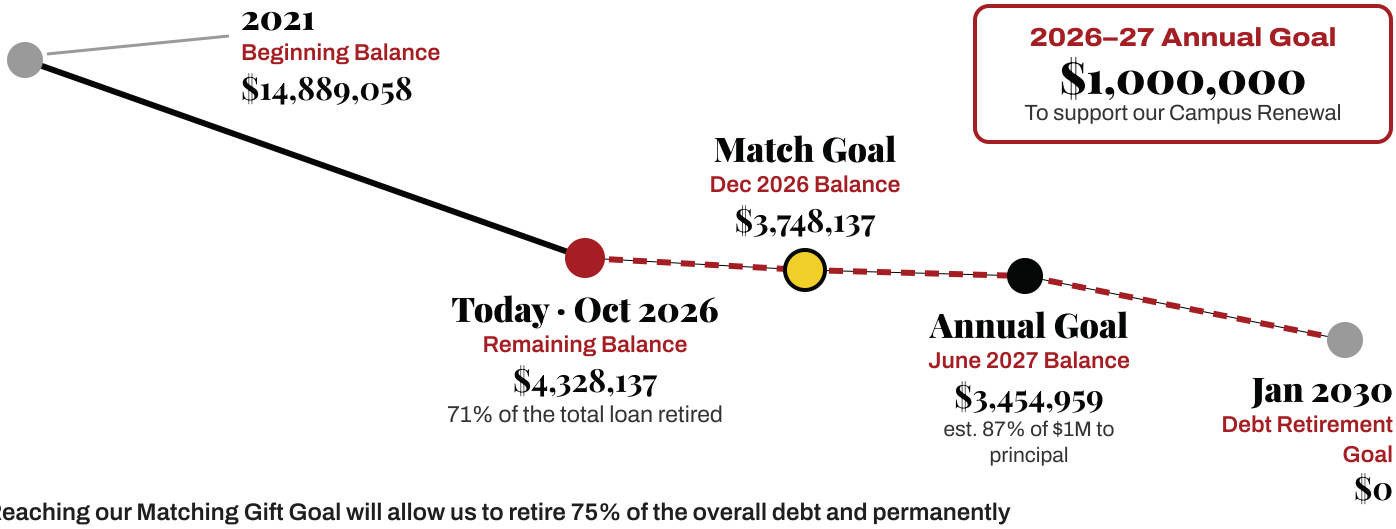
What will reaching this goal do for St. Mary's School?

When we built our new school building, we created a state-of-the-art environment for our students to learn, grow, and deepen their Catholic faith. Today, we have an unprecedented opportunity to secure that investment.

Meeting this goal isn't just about paying down a loan—it's about freeing up essential operating capital. Eliminating this 13.4% immediately reduces our annual interest payments and shortens the length of the loan.

St. Mary's Campus Renewal Update · October 2026

Loan payoff progress, 2021 to January 2030



Reaching our Matching Gift Goal will allow us to retire 75% of the overall debt and permanently eliminate over $180,000 in interest costs over the potential life of the loan.

Instant Interest Relief

Wiping out 13.4% of the principal directly lowers our mandatory monthly debt service.

100% Return on Investment

Generous donors pay 50% of the cost for us to achieve this milestone.

Sustaining Mission & Ministry

Less money paid to bank interest means more resources dedicated to Catholic education and student programs.

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ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

MATCH ENDS DEC. 31, 2026

Your Gift With 1:1 Challenge Match

A Real Impact on School Debt

- Eliminates significant long-term interest burden
- Accelerates the speed of our principal reduction
- Direct impact on lowering our monthly payment
- Every dollar counts toward reaching our $300k match

Your Gift	Donor Match	Total Impact
$25,000	$25,000	**$50,000**
$10,000	$10,000	**$20,000**
$5,000	$5,000	**$10,000**
$1,000	$1,000	**$2,000**
$250	$250	**$500**

Smart Ways to Double Your Gift

1. **Cash/Pledges**
   One-time gifts or pledges fulfilled through December 2026.

2. **IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)**
   Donors 70½ or older can give tax-free directly from an IRA before year-end.

3. **Corporate Matching**
   Check if your employer matches charitable contributions to triple your gift impact.

Ways to Give

Prayer

Whether you are able to donate $50,000 or $5, we are asking all community members to pray for the success of these efforts, pray for our students and staff, and pray for God's will to be done through it all.

Automated Giving

Giving Online is easy through the Queen of Peace E-giving Platform. Make sure to indicate the intent is a school donation.
queenofpeacesd.org/giving

Cash or Check

Please attach any initial payment to the **Donor Pledge Form** and return it to the pastorate or school office. Checks should be made payable to **St. Mary's Campus Renewal**.

Credit Card

Donors wishing to make a donation via credit are advised to use the Queen of Peace E-giving Platform listed above.

Farm Commodities

Gifting agricultural commodities may be an excellent opportunity for you to maximize your campaign contribution, and can also provide favorable tax benefits.

Corporate Matching

Your company's matching gift will be recognized as part of your total pledge, unless otherwise specified. To ensure matching gifts are received and accurately recorded, please notify the pastorate office that you are submitting a matching gift form.

Stock Exchange

Donors who wish to transfer stock or mutual fund shares should contact Jeff Trumbauer, Chief Operating Officer for the Queen of Peace Pastorate, for broker and account information.

IRA Distribution

If you are 70½ or older, you may transfer up to $111,000 annually from your IRA account directly to the campaign without first having to recognize the distribution as income.

GIVE ONLINE TODAY
queenofpeacesd.org/giving

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