



St. Elizabeth Catholic Church
Building Our Legacy 2025 Capital Campaign
A Working List of Frequently Asked Questions

Questions about our *Building Our Legacy* Campaign Goal

Q: What are the overall goals for the campaign?

The ***Building Our Legacy*** 2025 campaign aims to **strengthen our faith, build our community, serve our neighbors, and educate our youth** by constructing the St. Elizabeth Gathering Center and Chapel, adding a multi-purpose field and grotto, increasing parking, and eliminating parish debt. In total, the parish aims to raise \$5.5 million for ***Building Our Legacy*** 2025 campaign.

Q: Has St. Elizabeth established an order of priorities for the projects of the *Building Our Legacy* campaign?

Yes. The first priority for money raised in the ***Building Our Legacy*** campaign will be to raze the buildings on the east side of our campus, build the St. Elizabeth Gathering Center and Chapel, and add parking. The next priority will be pay off the parish debt. The multi-purpose field is the next priority and the rebuilding of the grotto is the last priority.

Q: What happens if St. Elizabeth does not raise all of the \$5.5 million goal?

If St. Elizabeth is not able to raise the entirety of the ***Building Our Legacy*** \$5.5 million goal, the Finance Committee, Building Committee, parish staff, and Fr. Bob will have to make tough decisions about how best to use the money from the campaign. The parish will have to look for ways to lower the costs, including: eliminating plans for a grotto; not outfitting the multi-purpose field with artificial turf and other amenities; and refining plans for the St. Elizabeth Gathering Center and Chapel.

Q: Will this campaign result in more debt for St. Elizabeth?

One of the primary goals of the ***Building Our Legacy*** campaign is to eliminate the \$680,000 debt associated with the construction of the ECC and the purchase and renovation of the parish rectory. Accordingly, St. Elizabeth does not want to accumulate any new long-term debt with the ***Building Our Legacy*** projects. Depending on the timeline of construction and the pace of collections on campaign pledges, the parish may have to secure a “bridge loan.” If needed, a bridge loan would be a short-term loan to cover the cost of construction while St. Elizabeth finishes collecting all of the campaign pledges. A bridge loan would be paid off as soon as all of the campaign pledges are collected. Assuming the ***Building Our Legacy*** campaign reaches its \$5.5 million goal, the parish believes it will have enough funding to either avoid a bridge loan altogether or the revenue to cover the interest costs of a short-term bridge loan.

Q: If the campaign raises more than the \$5.5 million goal, how will the parish use the additional money?

St. Elizabeth has pledged that any money raised beyond the ***Building Our Legacy*** goal will be gathered in a campus maintenance fund and used when needed.

Questions about the *Building Our Legacy* Projects

Q: Who will oversee the *Building Our Legacy* projects?

There will be many oversight bodies involved: the Building Committee, the Finance Committee, parish staff, and the Diocese of Kansas City–Saint Joseph. Our parish committees are comprised of dedicated parishioners from professional fields dedicated to projects like these. The parish will also benefit from the volunteer support of parishioner Alan Lankford, a professional engineer with a consulting firm that helps clients with planning, design and construction administration services. Alan has volunteered to serve as St. Elizabeth’s owner’s representative during the construction process. Finally, the Diocese of Kansas City–Saint Joseph reviews and approves all plans, timelines, and finances associated with projects like these.

Q. When will construction on the *Building Our Legacy* projects start?

This will depend entirely on the giving of parishioners. Before a parish can begin construction, the Diocese of Kansas City–Saint Joseph requires it to accumulate 50% of the total cost of the projects in cash and 75% of the total costs pledged. St. Elizabeth would begin the ***Building Our Legacy*** projects only after these requirements are met. Early payments on pledges from parishioners would enable St. Elizabeth to begin construction sooner.

Q: How did we calculate the costs of the *Building Our Legacy* projects? Do we have a general contractor?

As of March 2025, St. Elizabeth has not hired a general contractor to manage the site work and construction of the St. Elizabeth Gathering Center and Chapel, multi-purpose field and grotto, and parking. As such, the current cost estimates are not based on formal construction bids. The cost estimates were assembled by ACI Boland, the architects hired by St. Elizabeth. ACI Boland submitted an “Opinion of Probable Costs” in late February after working with the Building Committee and parish staff to design the current projects. The cost are formulated using construction cost-per-square-foot estimates for projects similar to the ***Building Our Legacy*** projects. St. Elizabeth will likely hire a general contractor in summer 2025.

Q: Have we allotted money in the *Building Our Legacy* projects for surprises like cost changes or inflation?

Yes. The current cost estimates include a 10% contingency line item. This amounts to roughly \$350,000 of money for any surprises that might materialize during the construction process.

Q: How long will the construction take?

The architects planning the ***Building Our Legacy*** projects anticipate roughly a 14-month period of construction once the demolition of the former convent and current PMC begin.

Q: St. Elizabeth sits at a busy intersection. What type of protection will be in place to guard against traffic?

ACI Boland, the Building Committee, and parish staff recognize the need for some form of protection from the traffic passing 75th Street and Main Street. What those protections will be has not yet been decided. The architects are exploring structures like a small wall, fencing, or bollards to protect both pedestrians and property.

Q: At one point, the parish considered raising money in this campaign to build a new gymnasium. Is that still a possibility?

No. Parish leaders concluded building a new gymnasium was beyond our fundraising abilities at this point. That said, a gymnasium remains part of the parish’s long-term plan. The planned location of the St. Elizabeth Gathering Center preserves space for a possible future construction of a gym when parish leaders determine it is feasible and beneficial.

Questions about Giving to our *Building Our Legacy* Capital Campaign

Q: Will we be told how much to commit?

No. However, the parish asks you to prayerfully consider a campaign pledge that is four times the amount of your current annual giving over the next three years. If you are not giving annually, please consider making a campaign gift of any size. No gift is too small.

Q. When should I make my pledge?

May 3rd and 4th is the Commitment Weekend for our ***Building Our Legacy*** campaign. However, you are welcome to make a pledge at any time. You can find more information about the campaign and an online pledge form here: <https://www.stekc.org/capital-campaign>. You can also fill out a pledge sheet and mail it to the parish office or place it in the weekly offertory.

Q. When am I expected to actually fulfill my pledge?

St. Elizabeth invites you to consider a three-year pledge, payable between May 2025 and April 2028. Many contributors will pay a portion of their capital pledge each week or month. Some will pay on an annual basis. Others make a one-time contribution. You can select a payment schedule that works for you. Early payments on pledges from parishioners would enable St. Elizabeth to begin construction sooner.

Q: How do I submit my pledge payments?

You can submit pledge payments using automatic bank withdrawal or a credit/debit card, offering assets, or submitting a check to the parish (monthly envelopes will be available for your convenience).

Q: When do my payments on my capital campaign commitment officially end?

If you make a three-year pledge and started paying in May 2025, your last payment would be April 2028.

Q: May I pay my campaign pledge in a lump sum or in a shorter time period?

Yes, your campaign gift may be paid in a lump sum, a partial lump sum with remaining payments spread over the three-year period, or paid in a shorter installment period.

Q: May I make a campaign gift of assets instead of cash?

Yes. Both gifts of cash and assets are welcome. Donating assets – appreciated stock, bonds, or property – may help you avoid paying capital gains and get a tax deduction. If you are interested in more information about this, contact Frank Medina at (816) 523-2405 x3147 or fmedina@stekc.org.

Q: Can I make a contribution to the capital campaign through an IRA rollover?

Yes. If you are 70 ½ years old or older, you can donate up to \$108,000 from your IRA directly to St. Elizabeth. It will not count as taxable income but it can satisfy your “required minimum distribution”. If you are interested in making a gift in this way, you will need to consult your IRA administrator, tax and/or financial advisor.

Q: Do I have to sign a contract when I make a commitment? What happens if I can't make my commitment payment because of illness or loss of job?

No. However, we do ask that you sign a pledge card. This is not a contract, but gives the parish the ability to plan. If you should have problems fulfilling this commitment, you are not legally obligated. If you feel comfortable doing so, a simple conversation with a member of staff might be appropriate so that the parish can support you in a challenging time. Should your circumstances change in the other direction and you find that you are able to increase your pledge later in the three-year giving period that would be greatly welcomed.

Q: I have continued giving to the 2017 Building Our Legacy campaign. Will this campaign replace the 2017 Building Our Legacy ?

Yes. The ***Building Our Legacy*** 2025 capital campaign should replace any giving you have continued to make to our last capital campaign in 2017.

Q: Can I designate where my capital contribution will be spent?

All contributions will go toward constructing the St. Elizabeth Gathering Center and Chapel, adding a multi-purpose field and grotto, increasing parking, and eliminating parish debt. The campaign is not set up for donors to make specific designations of where their contributions go.

Q: Are “named giving” opportunities available in the Building Our Legacy campaign?

Many capital campaigns offer donors the option of “naming” some aspect of a campaign after a favorite saint, a loved one, their family, or themselves. Based on designated gift levels, a donor would have the option to “name” items like a building or a stained-glass window or a classroom. St. Elizabeth is not formally promoting named giving opportunities in the Building Our Legacy campaign. However, the parish is not opposed to the idea. If you or your family would like to talk about a “named gift” please reach out to Frank Medina at (816) 523-2405 x3147 or fmedina@stekc.org.

Basic Questions about a Capital Campaign

Q: What is a capital campaign?

A capital campaign is an organized drive to collect and accumulate substantial funds to finance major needs of an organization such as a building, a major repair project, or debt from either. In the case of our parish, pledge cards should be returned on May 3rd and 4th of 2025 for a three-year period of giving. Money collected in the capital campaign will be used to construct the St. Elizabeth Gathering Center and Chapel, add a multi-purpose field and grotto, increase parking, and eliminate parish debt.

Q: Is my capital pledge different from my annual stewardship pledge?

Yes. Our parish is sustained by annual stewardship gifts. Annual stewardship gifts pay for our on-going expenses. Our capital campaign gifts will be devoted entirely to the Gathering Center and Chapel, multi-purpose field and grotto, parking, and parish debt. If you can only make one type of gift, the parish requests you offer an annual stewardship gift.

Q: Will everyone be asked to make a capital commitment?

Yes. Our goal is to invite everyone to contribute to the capital campaign.

Q: Will new members be asked to make a capital commitment?

Yes. As new members join, they will learn of the ***Building Our Legacy*** 2025 projects and be asked to consider making a capital campaign pledge.

Q: How much will it cost to plan and implement this fundraising campaign?

We expect to pay roughly 2% of the total amount raised in the campaign to cover fundraising expenses. This, of course, will depend on how much the campaign actually raises. These figures include all of the expenses tied to printing and postage, promotional material, event costs, and consultant fees.

Questions about the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph and Parish Debt

Q: Does the Diocese fully support our projects and the Building Our Legacy campaign?

Yes! Bishop Johnston and the Diocese have given the parish their blessing to proceed with this \$5.5 million campaign to construct the St. Elizabeth Gathering Center and Chapel, add a multi-purpose field and grotto, increase parking, and eliminate parish debt.

Q: What money does St. Elizabeth pay the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph each month? And what is the cathedraticum?

St. Elizabeth pays roughly \$90,000 to the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph each month. This payment covers the cost of St. Elizabeth's employee benefits (e.g. health insurance, dental insurance, pension contributions, disability and life insurance). The remaining payment covers property and causality insurance for our campus, costs related to the priest retirement fund, and the cathedraticum.

Q: What is the cathedraticum and will St. Elizabeth pay it to the Diocese for this campaign?

The cathedraticum is an assessment on all diocesan parishes. The Diocese assesses all parish revenue, regardless of source, 9.25%. As such, the contributions from the ***Building Our Legacy*** campaign would be assessed. However, parishes, like St. Elizabeth, that have schools can deduct 50% of all the expenses related to the operating of their schools from the total revenue used to calculate the assessment. In short, St. Elizabeth pays a 9.25% assessment on all its revenue to the Diocese, minus 50% of the cost it expends to run the school. Further, the assessment is capped at 25% for any one-year change when there are fluctuations in income such as a capital campaign. The parish believes that if the ***Building Our Legacy*** campaign reaches its \$5.5 million goal, it will have sufficient funding to pay the cathedraticum on the campaign revenue.

Q: Does St. Elizabeth owe the Diocese money related to its monthly payments and cathedraticum?

Yes. St. Elizabeth is currently in arrears to the Diocese for roughly \$300,000. St. Elizabeth fell behind in its payments to the Diocese in early 2024 when the proceeds from the sale of house received and sold as part of a bequest were directed to the rectory loan. These funds were budgeted for operations, including making payments to the Diocese. In addition, kindergarten enrollment numbers dropped after staffing changes were initiated for a larger class size. The Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph does not charge St. Elizabeth interest for these delayed payments. St. Elizabeth has established a plan, approved by the Diocese, to become current which includes contributions from donors and the sale of the rental properties on 74th Terrace. This will be accomplished separate from the ***Building Our Legacy*** campaign.

Q: What debt does St. Elizabeth carry and how do we plan to pay off this debt?

St. Elizabeth currently has a total debt of \$686,532. This debt is made up of two loans. The first loan was for the construction of the ECC and originated at \$1.3 million in 2020. Today, we owe \$396,026 on this loan. The second loan was for the purchase of the parish rectory and originated at \$400,000 in 2023. Building a rectory, with an estimated cost of \$600,000, was originally a part of the plan for this campaign. Today, we owe \$290,506 on this loan. Both of these loans are held by the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph and have floating interest rates that adjust quarterly. Since 2020, the interest rates have been as low as 2.75% and as high as 7.5%. Each month we pay the Diocese roughly \$31,000 in debt payments on these two loans. The ***Building Our Legacy*** campaign aims to pay off these two loans and eliminate this debt.

Questions about St. Elizabeth's Rental Houses on 74th Terrace

Q: Why is St. Elizabeth selling the three properties it owns on 74th Terrance?

For over 30 years, St. Elizabeth has owned three houses on 74th Terrace. The parish has rented these houses, with the hopes of someday using them for parish expansion. The Finance Committee, the Building Committee, parish staff, and Fr. Bob have decided to sell these properties. Several reasons factored into this decision. First, serving as a landlord is not part of the church's mission. Second, after assessing the land, architects have explained that the area is problematic because the houses sit on a grade substantially lower than current parish property and the square footage of the land is limited. Third, the parish has been unable to buy the one property that would make these houses contiguous to our campus.

Q: What are plans for the sale of the rental houses?

The parish is planning to sell the three properties on 74th Terrance, just west of the campus. According to our real estate agent, these houses will likely generate roughly \$585,000. The proceeds of the sale of these houses will be used to eliminate what the parish owes the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph for its monthly payments and cathedraticum. Any money that remains after paying the Diocese will be gathered in a campus maintenance fund and used when needed.