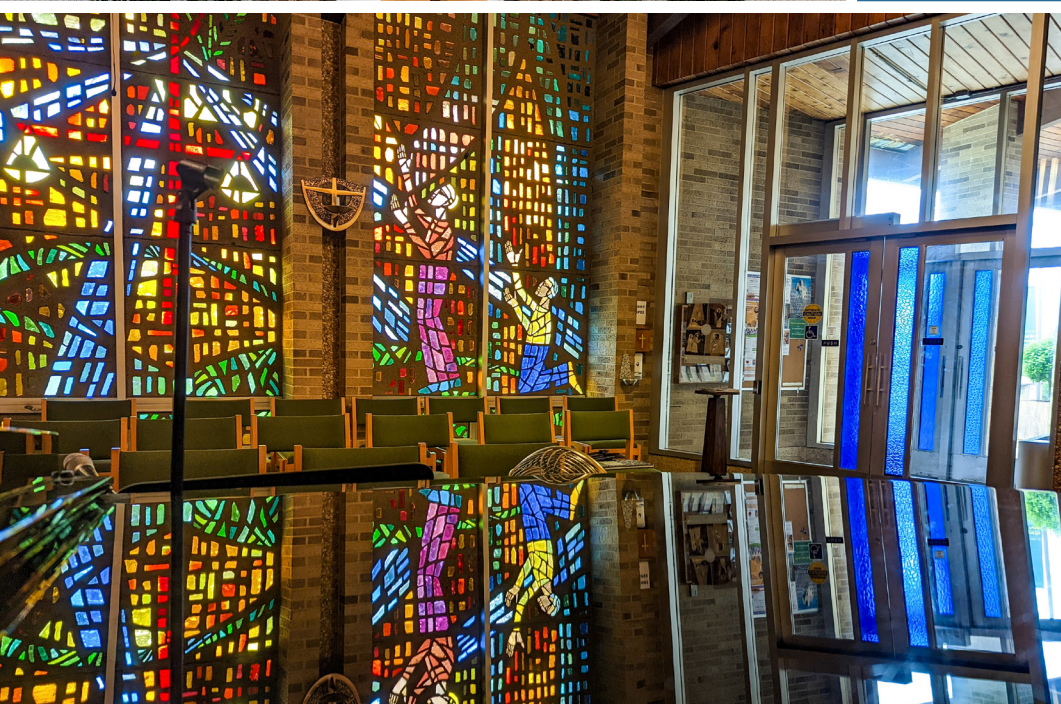
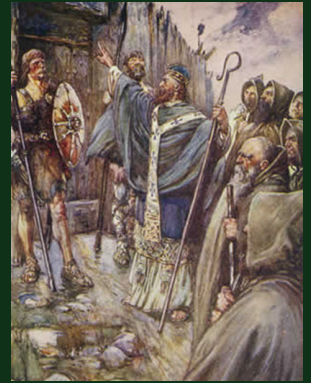




Saint Columba: A Poet, Statesman, & Scholar

Born on December 7th, 521, in Gartan, County Donegal, Ireland, the man who would become St. Columbkille of Iona entered the world as Colum, a name meaning "dove." The son of Fedlimidh and Eithne of the royal House of Ui Neill (O'Neill), he was a great-great-grandson of Niall the Great, one of Ireland's High Kings. Over time, he became known by the Latin form of his name, Columba. He spent his early childhood in the village of Glencolmcille: a place that would later bear his name.

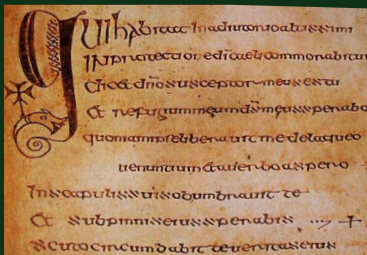
As a young boy, Columba began his formation at the monastic school of Moville under St. Finnian, where he embraced the monastic way of life and was ordained a deacon. Stories of his holiness and miracles soon began to spread. From Moville, he continued his studies at Clonard Abbey under St. Finnian of Clonard, joining the renowned group later known as the **Twelve Apostles of Ireland**. It was there that Bishop Etchen of Clonfad ordained him to the priesthood, preparing him for the extraordinary mission that lay ahead.



His advance through religious life brought changes to his name as he became known variously as Colm Cille, Columcille, or Columbkille. The suffixes mean in Old Irish "of the church." When added on to his original baptismal name Colum, his name comes to literally mean "**Dove of the Church**." His eventual lasting and permanent name, Columbkille, is likely a Gaelic version: Gaelic being a Celtic dialect of the Scottish and Irish languages.

Embarking on his mission, Columbkille established monasteries at Derry in 545, Durrow in 553, and Kells in 554. In 563, at age 41, Columbkille and twelve companions set out on the sea between Ireland and Scotland where on the eve of Pentecost May 12, 563, they landed on the island of Iona. This island has been granted for use as a monastic colony by King Conal of Dalriada, a relative of Columbkille, and was destined to become the great religious center for Scotland and northern England. Columbkille then spent several years working among the Scots of Dalriada and then turned his attention towards the major long-term effort of his life: **the conversion of the Northern Picts of Caledonia**. The Picts were ancient people of Great Britain driven to Scotland by the Britons and Romans. There was some opposition from the Druids, an ancient Celtic religious order including priests, poets, judges, and soothsayers. However, their influence among the people was waning and they were being displaced by the advance of the new Christianity of Medieval times now spearheaded by Columbkille.

For the final 32 years of his life, St. Columbkille devoted himself to spreading Christianity throughout northern Scotland, founding churches and monasteries while becoming renowned for his preaching and miracles. Among the most famous stories from his life is the earliest recorded account of the legendary **Loch Ness Monster**. According to his biographer, Adomnán, Columbkille encountered a group of Picts mourning a man said to have been killed by the creature. When he saw the monster pursuing a swimmer in the River Ness, he made the sign of the cross and commanded, "You will go no further!" The beast immediately retreated, astonishing all who witnessed it. While this account cannot be historically verified, it remains one of the saint's most enduring legends.



Alongside his missionary work, Columbkille dedicated countless hours to prayer, study, and writing, producing more than 300 works. Two of his most famous manuscripts, *The Book of Durrow*, and a psalter called *The Cathach*, are still preserved today.

In the spring of 597, at the age of 75, St. Columbkille sensed that his earthly journey was drawing to a close. On Saturday, June 8, he climbed the hill overlooking his beloved monastery and gave it his final blessing. That evening, after Vespers, the bell called the monks to the midnight service. Refusing assistance, he quietly made his way to the church, where he knelt before the altar, and peacefully surrendered his soul to God surrounded by his devoted disciples. His feast day is celebrated in both Scotland and Ireland on **June 9th**. Columbkille was first buried on the grounds of the monastery he had founded on Iona. More than a century later, his remains were placed in a shrine honoring his life and legacy. As Norse raids repeatedly threatened the island, the monks carried his relics to Ireland for safekeeping, where they were laid to rest alongside St. Patrick and St. Brigid at Downpatrick.



Prayer of St. Columba + Be a bright flame before me, O God, and a guiding star above me. Be a smooth path below me, a kindly shepherd behind me; today, tonight, and fore ever. Alone with none but you, my God I journey on my way; what need I fear when you are near, O Lord of night and day? More secure am I within your hand than if a multitude did round me stand. **Amen. +**



Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I give thanks to God for the many ways you embody love, generosity, and faithful leadership within our St. Columbkille Parish community. Because of parishioners like you, we continue to live out our mission of worshiping God, serving others, and forming disciples of Jesus.

As a growing family in faith, our parish has been working diligently over the past several years to develop a comprehensive facilities master plan. This long-term vision and investment strategy is designed to guide the improvement and maintenance of both our internal and external facilities, so they may best serve our mission well into the future. At the same time, Bishop Malesic invites all parishes to participate in the Called to Flourish campaign—an initiative rooted in service, worship, and evangelization.

As we approach the 75th anniversary of St. Columbkille in 2031 we take time to reflect with gratitude on the many blessings and the spirit of generosity that have shaped our parish community over the years.

Throughout our history, each generation has faithfully answered God's call—recognizing needs, embracing change, and working together to strengthen our parish as witnesses to Jesus Christ. God has abundantly blessed us, and the people of St. Columbkille have consistently shown remarkable generosity in supporting the sacramental and educational life of our growing community.

Today, we are called to carry forward that proud tradition. This extraordinary effort represents a significant step forward. It is an opportunity to deepen our mission in Christ and to be faithful stewards by preparing for the future of our parish. This is our moment to offer our time, talent, and treasure in gratitude and praise to God.

With great hope and excitement for the years ahead, I invite you to learn more about this important chapter in our parish journey. With the support of our entire St. Columbkille family, we will continue to grow stronger in faith, glorify the Lord, and bear witness to His presence here in Parma/Seven Hills.

Never forget, the Lord Jesus is with us, always!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Father Anthony J. Suso
Pastor



Where We Began

a history of our parish

St. Columbkille Parish has served the residents of Seven Hills and Southeastern Parma since June of 1956. St. Columbkille Parish was canonically erected by the Most Reverend Archbishop Edward F. Hoban, Bishop of Cleveland, on June 7, 1956. The establishment of the "new" parish continued the legacy of the original St. Columbkille Parish located at 2642 Superior Avenue in the City of Cleveland.

"Old" St. Columbkille Parish was established in 1871 by Fr. James O'Reilly. The cornerstone for the parish was laid on June 13, 1902 with the Church of St. Columbkille being dedicated on October 9, 1904.

In 1933, the Most Reverend Archbishop Joseph Schrembs made St. Columbkille Parish the diocesan center for the deaf and hearing impaired. The parish's pastor, Father Arthur Gallagher, was appointed Diocesan Director of the Deaf. We celebrated the Golden Jubilee of its founding on June 2, 1946. The last Mass to be celebrated in the "old" St. Columbkille Parish was on September 26, 1957. The property was razed thereafter for construction of the Inner Belt Freeway (Interstate 90).

Although the current St. Columbkille Parish is not a direct continuation of the original parish, it carries on its name and spirit. Pews, vestments, the baptismal font, chalices, monstrance, and Ambry were brought from the "old" Church to the "new" suburban parish. The baptismal font and Ambry were installed in the temporary Church in 1959. The Ambry was installed as a permanent link to our roots in 1971.

The "new" St. Columbkille Parish was originally intended for the intersection of Broadview Road and Ridgewood Drive. The first mass was celebrated at the Parmadale Chapel on June 17, 1956. The first pastor of the parish was Father Bernard A. Stalder who was ordained March 11, 1933. Unexpectedly, Father Stalder died on September 16, 1956. Father Michael G. Hnat was appointed pastor on September 27, 1956 and his first task was to find a new location for the parish. The original site was determined to be of insufficient size for a church, school, and other parish buildings. A new 35 acre site was purchased on Broadview Road between Chestnut Road and Maplevue Drive. Groundbreaking for the temporary church and school complex was held on October 13th, 1957.

The temporary church/school complex was designed by John F. Lipaj and Associates. St. Columbkille School opened in September 1958 and the first Mass of the temporary church was celebrated on December 19, 1958. The parishioners of the parish would devote time, talent, and financial resources over the next several years to building a rectory, convent, and an expanded school facility. The convent was built entirely by the craftsman of the parish on weekends and on weekday evenings. Without the effort and talents of these pioneers, the campus we are proud of today could not have become a reality.

As the parish continued to grow, the need became obvious for a larger, more permanent church. It became the dream of Father Hnat to construct such a church. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the "new" permanent Church were held on August 10, 1969. The "new" church was designed by the firm of Rauschenbach, Casini, and Urban. Father Hnat would not live to see his dream completed and died unexpectedly on May 20, 1971.

His funeral mass was celebrated in the temporary church

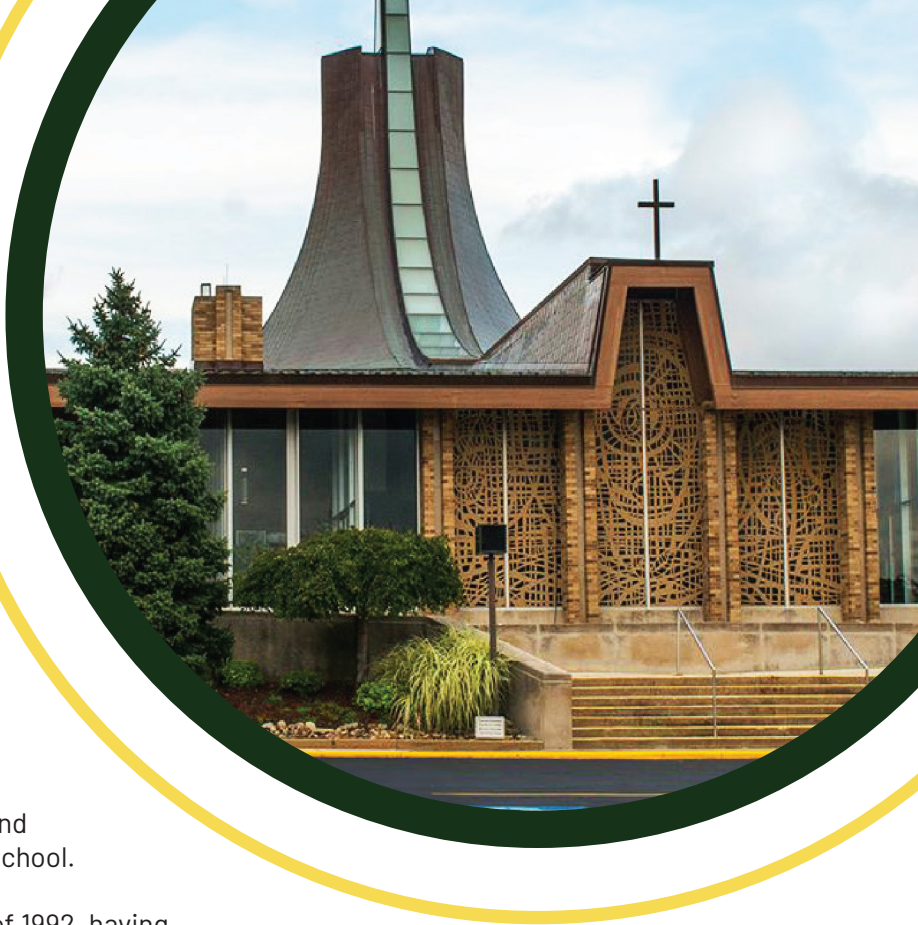
in the shadow of the steeple of the "new" church.

Father Stephen F. Radecky was appointed as successor on July 7, 1971. The first event to be held in the "new" church was First Holy Communion on November 6, 1971. The church's altar of sacrifice was consecrated by the most Reverend William Cosgrove, Auxiliary Bishop of Cleveland, on March 20, 1972. The "new" church was solemnly dedicated by the Most Reverend Clarence G. Isenmann, Bishop of Cleveland, on April 30, 1972. One of the concelebrants of the dedication Mass was Father Andrew Hnat, brother of Father Michael Hnat.

Under Father Radecky's leadership, the parish continued to grow and prosper throughout the 1970's. The temporary church was renovated and converted into a Parish Hall and gymnasium for the school.

Father Radecky retired from active service in May of 1992, having served the parish for 21 years. Father Neil O'Connor was named the fourth pastor of St. Columbkille in June of 1992. Father O'Connor continued the traditions of St. Columbkille while opening new resources to serve the members of the parish, including a PreSchool program, and the renovation of the former convent into today's Parish Center. Following Father O'Connor's retirement at the age of 75, Father Anthony Suso was installed as the fifth pastor on April 29th, 2018.

Today, St. Columbkille Parish has grown to nearly 3,000 households and a school of over 400 students. Under the leadership of Fr. Suso we have a vibrant perpetual Eucharistic Adoration chapel, an expansive service and outreach ministry to those in need, and growing small groups of men, women, youth and young adults who meet weekly on campus to share faith. The initial 800 families from 1956 could hardly have imagined such expansion. The past 66 years have seen significant growth in the parish and the surrounding communities. However, one constant remained from the days of St. Columbkille's pioneers. The people of St. Columbkille Parish continue the same generous spirit and willingness to give their time, talents, and treasures to support our spiritual home. The traditions of the "old" and "new" St. Columbkille Parish will continue for many years to come.



Our Pastors Through the Years

1956	1956–1971	1971–1992	1992–2018	2018–Present
Fr. Bernard Stalder	Fr. Michael Hnat	Fr. Stephen Radecky	Fr. Neil O'Connor	Fr. Anthony Suso

Prayer of our Parish + We the family of St. Columbkille Parish kneel before you, Our Heavenly Father. Fill us with the fullness of Your love so that we will draw others back to Saint Columbkille Parish and bring the Good News of Your salvation to those who do not know You. We ask this in the name of Your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. +



Building a Stronger Parish for Generations

Our Facilities Committee recently completed a master plan for long-term investment in our campus. Through hard work, deliberate assessment, and advice from parishioners we can focus on projects that will impact our parish and school. We are at the crossroads to make a difference in shaping our parish and school for today and for generations to come. By implementing our master plan, we will be able to:

Improve spaces to better serve our growing parish and school communities

Enhance accessibility and efficiency

Increase accessibility to our campus

Beautify our sacred worship space

Provide a separate priest residence for the well-being of those who serve us

Dedicate a more accessible food pantry to serve our community

Allow more opportunities for our ministries to meet

Enable parishioners and the community to adore in a private quiet space

Modernize parish offices to enhance efficiency, functionality, and the ability to serve the entire parish community

Provide spaces for worship, gathering, education, and serving the larger community by enhancing our existing facilities and creating welcoming environments

Improve safety, comfort, and access for individuals of all ages and abilities by creating designs that will be easily accessible for all

Our vision addresses both the short and long-term needs of our parish and school. To ensure St. Columbkille can operate most effectively, safely, and efficiently, we must renovate the physical environment that require capital investment following decades of use. With thoughtful repair and repurpose of spaces and facilities, we can effectively address the broader needs of our community.



Remember & Renew

Due to the generosity of parishioners who have come before, we have saved \$8 million of the necessary \$12 million that is needed to complete our capital projects. The funds in-hand are evidence of the generosity and faithfulness of those who came before. Today, with our own generosity and faithfulness, we are invited to complete what earlier generations began.

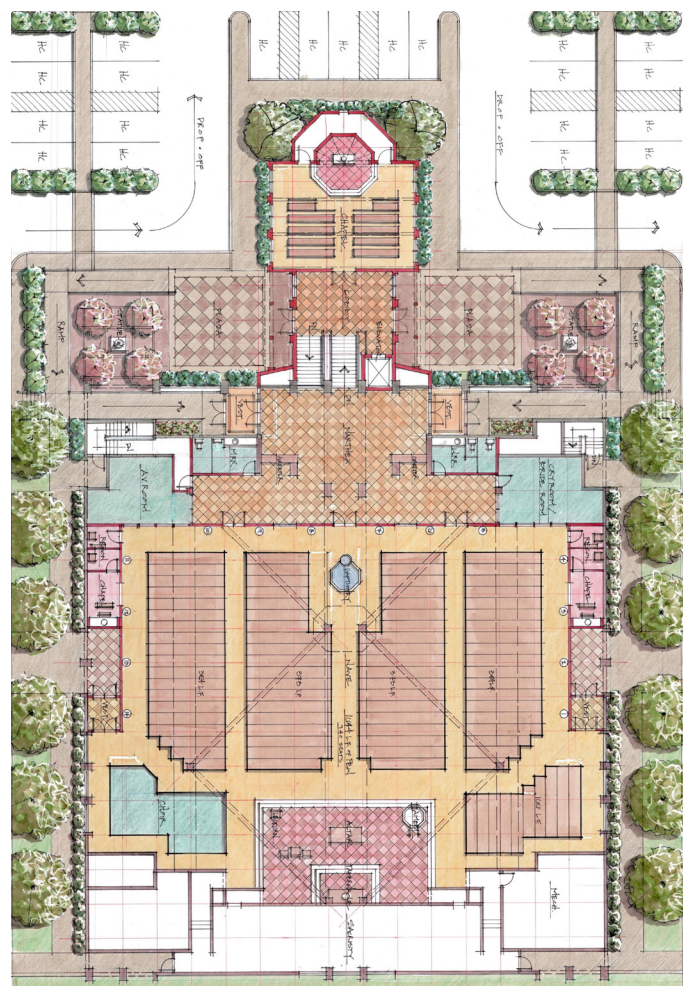
Our campaign focuses on three main campaign initiatives as well as participation in the Diocese of Cleveland's Called to Flourish campaign. All of these initiatives provide opportunities for us to grow spiritually, educationally, and in fellowship with others.

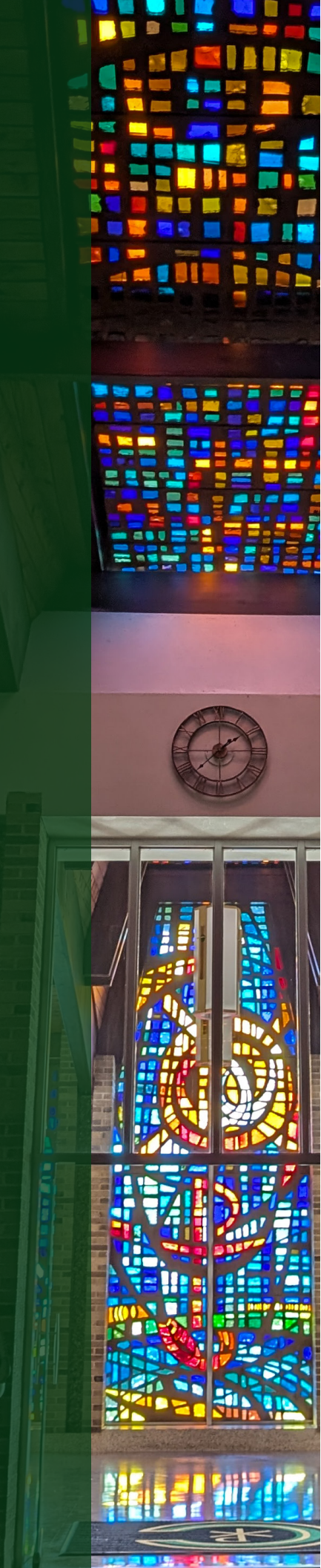
Worship God

Serve Others

Form Disciples

* Our campaign goal is based on estimated costs. Projects could fluctuate dependent on permit fees, construction fees, and material fees.





Worship God

Renovation and Expansion of our Sacred Worship Space

A beautiful worship space profoundly shapes how we encounter God, pray, and engage in our faith. Its environment signals that something sacred is taking place, deepening our awareness, and enhancing our spiritual experience. Moments of beauty and reverence draw us closer to God and strengthen our faith life.

New Entry Vestibule and Expanded Church Basement

New Entry Vestibule will allow for better accessibility for all who enter our church. The space will include an elevator that will connect the gathering space and the expanded lower level as well as new and added accessible restrooms in the gathering space.

New Entry Plaza

New Entry Plaza will have accessible parking and ramps to ensure safe arrival for Mass attendees. The ramp slope will be more conducive for people who need to use the ramp to enter the church.

Church Interior Beautification

Church Interior Beautification will include updating the sanctuary, baptismal font, and pews. We will make the sanctuary a more beautiful space to honor and glorify God.

New Adoration Chapel

The new Adoration Chapel will have a better location closer to the main sanctuary. It will have comfortable chairs and pews and beautiful stained-glass windows. It will offer profound peace and foster an intimate personal relationship with Jesus.

Serve Others

Renovation of our Parish Offices and Meeting Spaces

Many of our buildings are antiquated and are not serving their original purpose. By renovating and updating a variety of spaces on campus, we will be better equipped to serve all who come onto campus.

New Rectory Residence

A new residence for our priests that is separate from the parish offices where it is currently located. The private priest residence located in front

of the existing parish offices will include a home chapel, exercise room, study, private bedrooms, and shared living spaces.

New Meeting Rooms

By reconfiguring existing space in the current rectory, we will be able to provide new accessible small, medium, and large meeting rooms for parish and community use.

Dedicated Food Pantry

With a dedicated food pantry, we will be able to expand our services and reach out to the broader community who needs our assistance. The pantry will have distribution lockers that will enhance the experience of those needing assistance. The new location will provide a safer and more accessible environment for both our volunteers and our pantry clients.

Parish Center Updates

Updates to our Parish Center will provide additional meeting space and include dedicated space for youth ministry and children's faith formation.

Removal of White House

The small white house at the front of our property has outlived its purpose and is an unnecessary expense. By removing the house, we will decrease expenses and offer a more welcoming green space with a statue of St. Columbkille for all to see who enter our property.

Form Disciples

School Enhancement and Safety of our School

Our parish is committed to providing a learning environment that supports the growth and development of curious hearts and minds. Recognizing that education is a primary ministry of a thriving parish, our campaign prioritizes updating and enhancing our school buildings to ensure safety and accessibility to all our students.

School Renovations

School renovations include replacing boilers, adding air-conditioning, removal of asbestos, and repurposing space to create additional learning and staff areas.

New Covered School Breezeway Entrance

New Covered School Entrance off the breezeway will improve student safety and accessibility into the school buildings.

Outdoor Pavilion

Outdoor picnic pavilion will provide space for year-round learning for students, faith-formation, and our faith community.



With the Diocese of Cleveland Called to Flourish Campaign, Bishop Malesic invites us to look to the future with faith and courage, renewing the mission of the Diocese of Cleveland for generations to come. These pillars will ensure vibrant parish life rooted in prayer, formation, and outreach.

Just as we are asking each parish family to make a gift of equal sacrifice toward this effort, our parish is also asked and called to support the broader mission of our Diocese. Together with our neighbors across the Diocese, we will keep the Church in Northeast Ohio strong and flourishing for years to come. As a parish we will contribute our share of \$807,500. The parish share is calculated as a percentage of offertory based on current giving for every parish in the diocese.

This campaign is a bold, diocesan-wide effort to raise \$200M across four priorities:

\$15M - Service:

Continue the mission of Jesus by responding to those in need

\$30M - Worship:

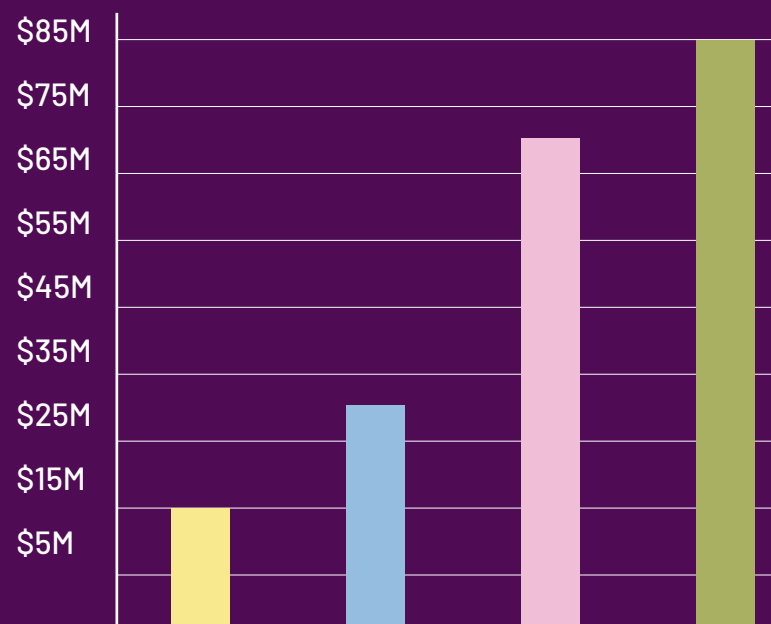
Care for the sacred spaces and individuals within our ministry

\$70M - Evangelization:

Welcome others into the glory of faith and strengthen Catholic education

\$85M - Parishes:

Sustain local communities, the epicenter of our faith



This is more than a financial initiative; it is a spiritual effort. It is a commitment to an apostolic Church and our response to the Holy Spirit's stirring within us—a call to awaken, renew, and strengthen the Church for decades to come. With the same faith, generosity, and unity exhibited by the first apostles, we will rise up together to renew Christ's Church in Northeast Ohio.

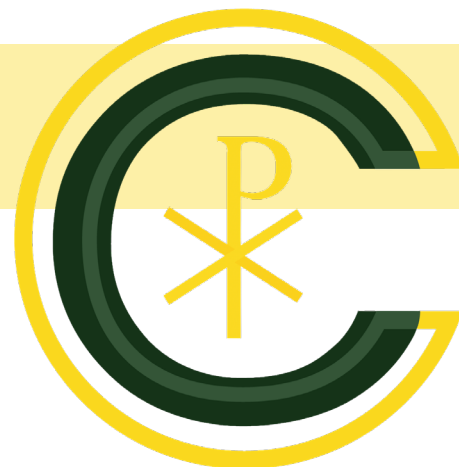
"Our Catholic faith teaches that God is love, and in Him we find meaning and hope. In living for Christ and serving others, we come to know His heart more intimately and we go forth as missionary disciples who worship, evangelize, and serve."

- Bishop Malesic

CALLLED *to*
FLOURISH
OUR CHURCH FOR THE FUTURE



Together We Answer God's Call



Today, we are blessed with the opportunity to carry forward the legacy of faith and generosity established by the devoted parishioners who came before us. We have been fortunate to benefit from the past generosity of our parish and will invest \$8 million toward our \$12 million stated goal. We need your help to close the gap.

This is a truly exciting moment in the history of St. Columbkille Parish. While we face a variety of challenges, they also present a unique opportunity to strengthen our ability to support our parishioners and the broader community. Through the Remember and Renew Campaign, we will enhance accessibility so all may more fully participate in parish life, create a more intimate space for prayer and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, expand opportunities for fellowship and hospitality, and build a lasting foundation for generations of faith formation, ministry, and celebration.

Your contribution to the Remember and Renew Campaign is more than a financial gift—it is a meaningful way to share in the blessings God has bestowed upon you and our parish community. It allows us to pass on the richness of our faith to our children, grandchildren, and future generations. Just as those before us built and nurtured this church, we are now called to continue their example by strengthening and enhancing St. Columbkille Parish. This campaign is not simply about buildings—it is about preserving and nurturing a legacy of faith, hope, and love that will bless this church and its future.

Achieving our goal will require the support and participation of every parish family. Together, we embark on this journey with thoughtful reflection and prayer, recognizing that each of us plays a vital role. We are called to live out the Christian principle of stewardship—gratefully offering back to God a portion of the blessings we have received, according to our means. Like all meaningful efforts that advance God's mission in lasting ways, this initiative calls us to consider giving with generosity and purpose. The involvement of every member of our parish family is essential. With a goal of this significance, every contribution matters, and every gift makes a difference.

As we continue our mission to worship God, serve others, and form disciples, we are inspired by the faithful parishioners who came before us. Their vision is now our own: to be a united family of faith, offering ourselves in praise and glory to God. Guided by the light of Christ and with the intercession of our patron, St. Columbkille, we will continue to grow in lifelong faith formation, foster a vibrant parish community, expand our outreach, and celebrate meaningful liturgy that invites full participation from all. Together, through prayer, generosity, and leadership, we will ensure that St. Columbkille Parish remains a vibrant community of faith for generations to come.





Every Great Journey Begins With Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, through your Passion, Death, and Resurrection, you draw us into friendship with God the Father and send us forth, filled with the Holy Spirit, to live as missionary disciples in the world. As stewards of St. Columbkille Parish, we embrace the Remember and Renew campaign as a sacred opportunity for growth, deeper communion, and shared mission. Strengthen us through the sacraments. Make us strong in spirit, generous in love, and united in purpose, that our Catholic witness may invite others to deeper faith, hope, and love. May we seek the salvation of souls and come at last to our own Heavenly reward. We ask this in your most Holy Name, for you live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. **Amen.**