

Campaign FAQs

Section 1: Finance Questions

1. Q. What is the total cost of the projects?

A. The overall estimated financial need to accomplish these projects is \$22 million. Our commitment to the Diocese of Savannah for the Harvest of Hope Capital Campaign adds \$1.4 million for a total of \$23.4 million. Dedicating \$9.4 million from the Parish Savings will reduce the balance needed to \$14 million.

2. Q. What is the campaign goal for the **Our Faith Our Future** Capital Campaign?

A. Our goal for the capital campaign is \$14 million. Any monies raised above the cost of these projects will be designated for a parish endowment.

3. Q. Why are we sending money to the Diocese?

A. Every parish in our diocese is supporting Bishop Parke's initiative to strengthen the local church. St. Mary on the Hill will dedicate \$1.4 million from our campaign to the Diocese of Savannah for the Harvest of Hope Campaign. A significant portion of these funds will support our growing seminary and the mission parishes of our diocese.

4. Q. How were the estimated costs for the projects determined?

A. R.W. Allen Construction, a recognized leader in commercial construction, provided parish leadership with the estimate based on in-depth review of the capital projects.

5. Q. Why are we having the campaign now? Why in this economy?

A. Parish leadership has been reviewing the needs of our campus for several years. A Needs Assessment was conducted in 2019. Covid paused our plans. In the Spring of 2025, a Feasibility Study was conducted showing strong support to move forward with the projects. Delaying would only increase construction costs, as prices will rise in the future.

6. Q. What will happen if we don't raise all of the money needed to complete the projects?

A. Since the parish already has dedicated Savings and some additional funds from the capital campaign, the construction of the New Parish Life Center will move forward this Fall. If there are insufficient funds for the New Banquet/Social Hall, the money will be held in a restricted account until we are able to complete this second phase of the project.

7. Q. Will the parish take out a loan to complete the project?
- A. Parish leadership will make that determination after the conclusion of the campaign. If necessary, taking out a bridge loan may be a viable option.
8. Q. Where will the campaign money be kept? How will it be invested?
- A. The money is being held in a restricted interest-bearing account.
9. Q. How will we know that our money is being used for the stated purpose?
- A. The money will be deposited in a restricted account and reported monthly to the Finance Council. All monies received for the **Our Faith Our Future** Capital Campaign will be used solely for the expressed purposes stated in the brochure.
10. Q. Where will the money go if we exceed our \$14 million goal?
- A. Any monies raised above the actual cost of these projects will be designated for a parish endowment.
11. Q. Have we considered the increased costs of operating and maintaining the new buildings on our campus? Will additional staff be needed?
- A. A preliminary review of the operation costs was conducted. Although we will be adding square footage, newer buildings are less expensive to maintain. Today's new construction is also much more energy efficient. Given the current and past strong support for St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church from our parishioners, Parish Leadership feels confident in the long-term financial well-being of the parish. We have been blessed with the stability of a number of families connected to the parish for generations.
- Our current Parish Staff will move into the new building. Consequently, the old offices can be demolished, eliminating the higher cost of operating this older building. There are no immediate plans to hire additional staffing, however, this will receive further consideration.

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Section 2: Project Questions

12. Q. When will the construction begin?

A. In order to begin the project, we will need the estimated cost of the project covered by pledges to the capital campaign and half of the money in hand. We will also need to submit the finalized plans to the Diocese of Savannah for approval. Currently, we are on pace to begin the construction of the New Parish Life Center in the Fall of 2026.

13. Q. When do we expect the projects to be completed?

A. The New Parish Life Center (PLC) will take approximately eighteen months to build. If everything stays on schedule, the PLC will be completed in the Spring of 2028. Once the Parish Staff has moved into the PLC, funds permitting, the construction of the New Social/Banquet Hall on Monte Sano Avenue will commence.

14. Q. Will contractors have an opportunity to bid on the project?

A. Parish leadership vetted five and interviewed three commercial contractors in the Fall of 2025. In early December the decision was made to retain R.W. Allen Construction, headquartered in Augusta, GA. The same firm that built the church.

15. Q. How was the priority of the projects determined?

A. a) In 2019, Cheatham Fletcher Scott conducted a Needs Assessment; a thorough review of our campus facilities to determine our most pressing concerns. The review included a professional analysis of the existing buildings. In the Spring of 2025, we also asked for feedback from parishioners to ensure the priorities reflected the desires of the community.
b) The established priorities were determined based on need as well as cost efficiency seeking to maximize both short term and long term benefits to the parish.

16. Q. Will we be taking down any existing structures on church property?

A. Our master plan includes the removal of the following buildings: Fr. Charlie's house, St. Anne's building, the garage, the existing Parish Offices, and possibly the Scout Hut. Parish Leadership received formal permission from the Augusta Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) for the removal of the old buildings, which enables us to move forward as planned.

17. Q. How will the new roundabout affect our plans?

A. The proposed roundabout at the corner of Monte Sano Ave and McDowell Street will not affect our building plans. In early December, parishioners gathered in the Parish Hall to voice their concerns to the local authorities regarding the proposed roundabout. The message was well received. Parish Leadership has received word from the mayor's office

that plans for a roundabout at the corner of Monte Sano & McDowell have been cancelled. Official confirmation of this decision should be forthcoming at undetermined date.

18. Q. Is the Site Plan finalized or will there be more changes?

A. The improved Site Plan gives us a solid template for what needs to be accomplished. The renderings and floor plans have been refined to best suit the identified needs of our parish community. In particular, we were able to increase parking.

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Section 3: Pledge Questions

19. Q. Is it true that each family is expected to contribute a pledge of \$6,000 or more?

A. No, this is not true. Every gift is important to the success of the campaign. The success of the campaign is based on the premise that not everyone can make the same size gift, but everyone can make the same size sacrifice; a contribution that truly reflects their gratitude for their Catholic Faith and a willingness to support the mission of St. Mary on the Hill Parish.

The suggested minimum asking level in the brochure was set at \$6,000 to reflect a formula that takes into consideration a variety of factors; it is not based on each registered family giving \$6,000. In order for us to be successful, any family who has the ability to pledge \$10,000, \$25,000, or \$50,000 is asked to prayerfully consider doing so.

20. Q. Why are families asked for pledges?

A. We are encouraging pledges instead of one-time gifts because a pledge allows a family to make a larger contribution over a longer period of time. The amount of your pledge is more important than the timeframe in which it is paid! If you need more time to make a larger pledge, you may do so. Of course, we are grateful for all sacrifices, whether they are pledges or one-time gifts. Our most important goal is 100% participation from our families! We hope that you will make a contribution to your parish!

21. Q. Do I have to make a down payment?

A. We ask everyone to consider making a 10% down payment with his/her pledge. A down payment is not necessary, however, it is appreciated. Please don't let that stop you from filling out your pledge card.

22. Q. Can I pay my pledge over a different time frame?

A. Yes, the time frame is your choice. Please be sure to indicate this on your pledge card when you fill it out.

23. Q. Do I have to make a pledge or can I pay it outright?

A. No, however, we are encouraging everyone to prayerfully consider giving to the campaign over an extended period of time since this allows for most people to make a larger gift. But we are appreciative of all the sacrificial gifts that are given.

24. Q. How do I fulfill my campaign pledge, will you remind me?

A. You may begin sending in your pledge contributions at any time. Beginning in June of 2026, regular reminders along with a return envelope will be sent to you according to the plan you have chosen: monthly, quarterly, or annually.

25. Q. Can I make my pledge online?

A. Yes, to make your pledge via EFT, debit or credit card, please visit: www.osvhub.com/stmaryonthehill/giving/funds. However, also remember to return your completed pledge card to the Campaign/Parish Office.

26. Q. What happens if my finances change and I am unable to fulfill my pledge? Will my family still be held responsible?

A. A pledge is not legally binding; it is a statement of your sincere intentions. If circumstances arise causing financial hardship, you will always have the ability to amend your pledge and your family will not be held responsible for a pledge that you have made.