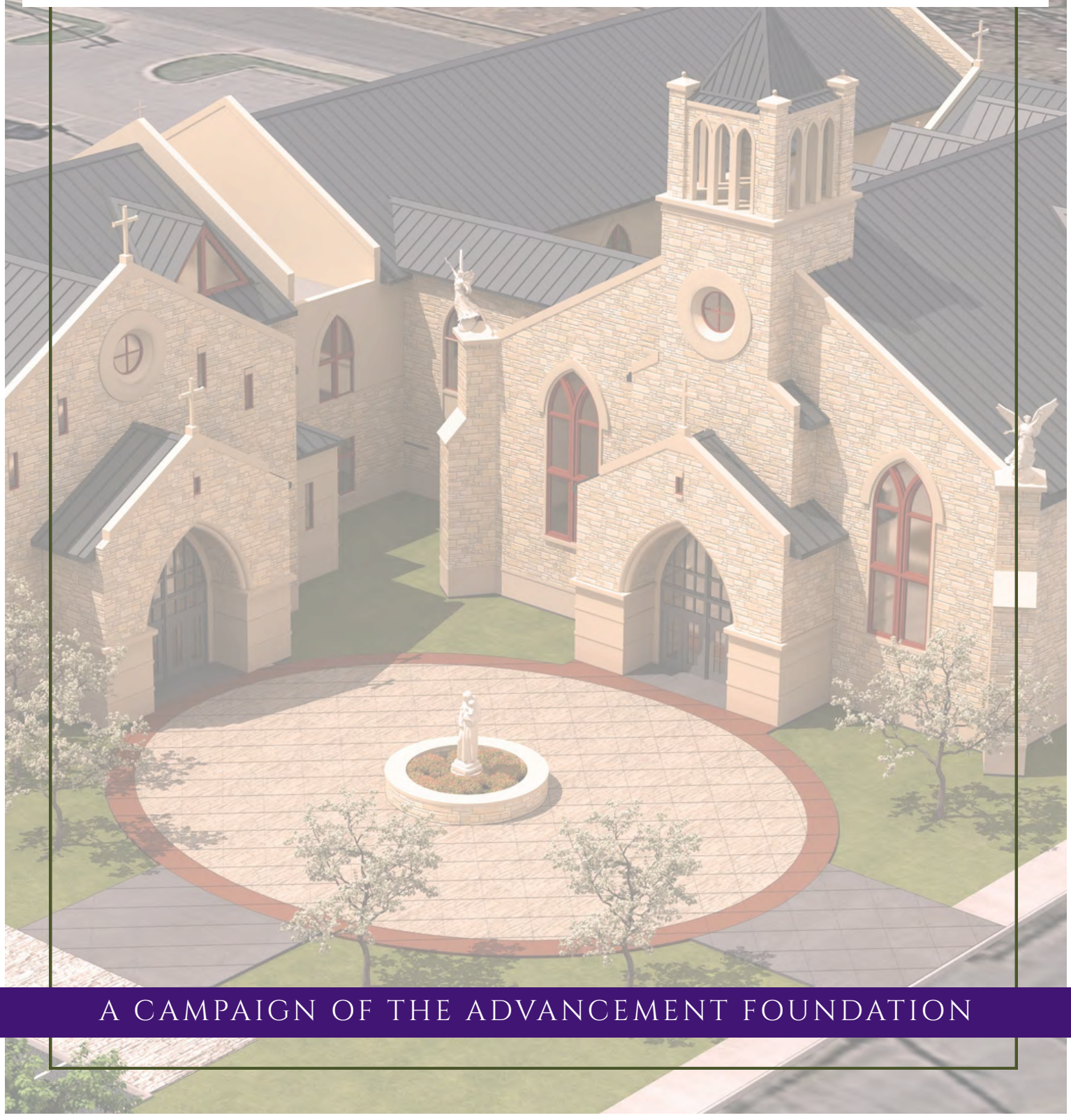
To Know • To Love • To Serve

St. Brendan Catholic Church



A Campaign of the Advancement Foundation

From the Pastor

Fall 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This past year has been a time of remarkable growth and blessing for St. Brendan. With the addition of another Mass, our weekly attendance has doubled. We've welcomed more than twice the number of registered families, and our ministries—particularly O.C.I.A., Religious Education, and Tarleton Campus Ministry—are seeing record participation. Truly, the Holy Spirit is moving powerfully in Stephenville!

As we look toward the future, we recognize a growing need: to provide a spiritual home that can fully support our vibrant and expanding community—including the students of Tarleton State University. To meet this need, we are embarking on a bold and faithful step forward: the construction of a new church campus.

Our vision for St. Brendan includes all-new facilities—a church, parish hall, offices, classrooms for religious education, and dedicated space for our Tarleton State Campus Ministry. All of this is rooted in one mission: to make Jesus Christ more fully known and more deeply loved.

This brochure, which outlines our plans, goals, and financial needs. I invite you to review it prayerfully and ask the Lord how He may be calling you to support this vital mission.

Thank you for being part of this growing community. Your faith, prayers, and support make this journey possible.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Fr. Ed Hopkins
Pastor



Campaign Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We come before You with grateful hearts, seeking Your grace and generosity as we embark on the journey of building a new parish facility. We are inspired by the courage of St. Brendan, who sailed into the unknown with faith, and who trusted in Your guidance over the seas. We now ask for trust, unity, prudence, and wisdom during this project. Continue to bless the work, protect the builders, and guide us in every decision that glorifies You. May this house of worship always stand as a beacon of hope, peace, and love for generations to come. We place our trust in You Father, and believe you will be with us every step of the way... Through Christ our Lord, Amen.



Our History

We keep growing, and that's a good problem to have!

Before St. Brendan existed, Catholics in Stephenville faced significant challenges practicing their faith. Among them was Professor Emil A. Blanchard of Tarleton State University, whose leadership helped shape the future of Catholic life in our community.

Guided by Professor Blanchard, local Catholics petitioned Bishop Thomas K. Gorman of the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth to establish a mission in Stephenville. The Bishop entrusted their care to the Pallottine Fathers of St. Stephen in Weatherford. Early Masses were held in humble spaces - even the basement of the city library - until, through extraordinary community effort, $10,000 was raised, half from local faithful and half from the Catholic Church Extension Society.

On April 13, 1958, St. Brendan Catholic Church was dedicated as a mission of St. Stephen. The modest building included a small chapel, priest's quarters, and a meeting hall. Just two years later, on February 11, 1960, St. Brendan became an independent parish under Father Alphonse Hayes.

From these humble beginnings, St. Brendan has grown into a vibrant parish serving families and Tarleton State students alike. Our history is a testament to the faith, perseverance, and generosity of those who came before us—an enduring legacy we now have the privilege to carry forward.

Our Projects



St. Brendan Catholic Church and Campus Ministry Program serve the Catholic community of the Stephenville area and the Tarleton State University Community. St. Brendan provides opportunities for spiritual growth through the Sacraments, evangelization, faith formation, and service.

Currently, local Catholic families, Tarleton State University students, faculty and staff in our area lack an appropriately sized worship space, offices, classrooms, and space for fellowship and formation. With the growth of our local Stephenville community and surrounding areas, with enrollment at the university exploding, and the faith needs of young adults evolving, our current resources are simply not adequate. Many students struggle to find a spiritual home on campus and often drift away from their faith during these formative years. A new Catholic Campus ministry center and parish church will reverse this trend by providing a welcoming environment where faith is lived, learned, and celebrated.

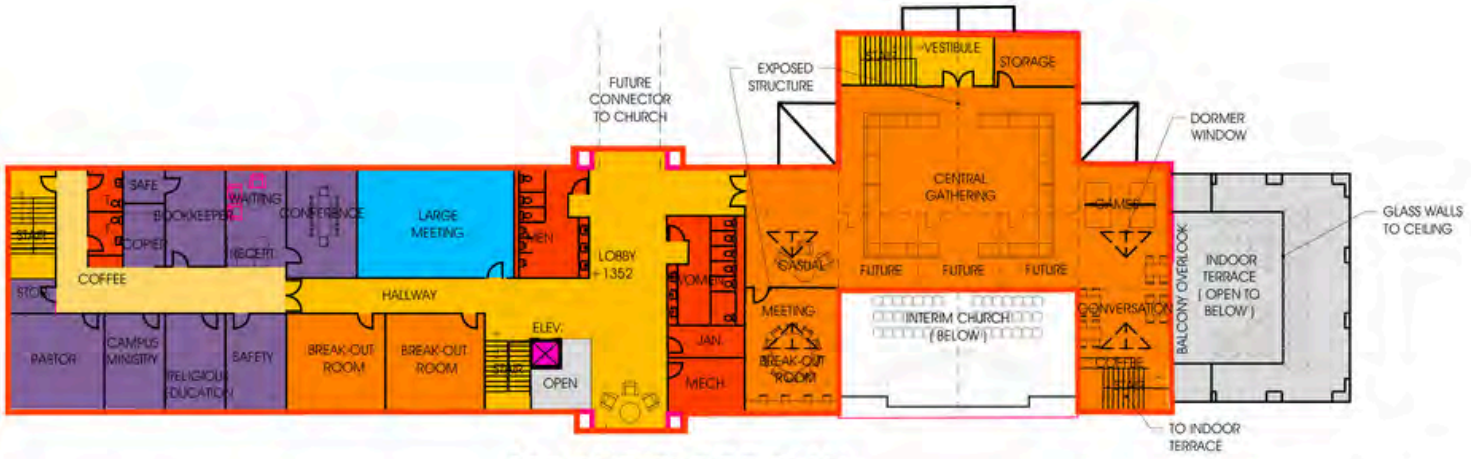
Our vision is to build and expand facilities that will nurture faith, foster leadership, and become a spiritual home for generations of students and families. We envision a state-of-the-art Catholic Campus Ministry and Parish at the heart of the university community. This center will include:

Features

·A beautiful church for worship, sacraments, and prayer
·Multipurpose spaces for fellowship, study, and events
·Offices and meeting rooms for ministry staff and student leaders
·Classrooms for faith formation, OCIA, and small groups

Our new facilities will be more than bricks and mortar – this will be the heart of Catholic life in Stephenville, on campus, and an anchor for the wider community.

Parish Hall



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Campaign Goals

St. Brendan plans to address these needs in two phases.

Phase 1 will include the construction of a new parking area, new parish and ministry offices, faith formation classrooms for adults and children, storage areas and a new Catholic Campus ministry space. Cost estimates for **Phase 1** are approximately **$12 million**, of which $5 million has already been committed. Construction of a new church building that will seat at least 600 is the capstone project of **Phase 2**, estimated to cost **$7 million**.

FAQs

Understanding the need we have to expand our parish facilities because of the growth of our community, what are the plans to build?
We plan to build a new church, parish/ministry offices, classrooms, storage areas, additional parking and new spaces for our Catholic Campus Ministry programs. We will be completing all of the work in two phases. Phase 1 will be approximately $12 million, and Phase 2 will be approximately $7 million.

How much, if any, have we raised so far? When can we begin actual construction?
Because of the generosity of our benefactors, we have raised nearly $5 million and in order to break ground, we must raise, in pledges, another 25% of the goal, an additional $2 million of the $7 million balance for Phase 1.

If Phase 1 begins in early 2026, what projects will be undertaken and how long will Phase 1 construction be?
The demolition of the existing St. Brendan Church and the religious education building will be the first projects undertaken. In addition to this demolition, we will also begin construction of our new parking area. The last area to be torn down will be the parish offices. It is anticipated that Phase 1 projects will take 12-16 months to complete.

Where will Mass be celebrated during this construction transition?
Holy Mass and other sacramental events will be celebrated in Newman Hall during Phase 1.

Are there plans to accommodate large meetings/gatherings/receptions, religious education classes, programs and parking during the construction process?
As various segments of construction take place, evolving strategies will be implemented to take care of any parish or Catholic Campus Ministry activities. As in any kind of major construction project there will be some measure of sacrifice required of each of us. Please be understanding and patient as we work to better serve the needs of our growing parish community. The new parking lot will be constructed first. [The Knights of Columbus meetings and our Lenten Fish Frys will be held at St. Mary's during construction.]

How will we raise the money to build the Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects and how long will it take?
St. Brendan Parish and Catholic Campus Ministry will embark on a major capital campaign to raise the necessary funds to build our new church, new offices, classrooms, parking and Catholic Campus Ministry areas. We are inviting all people of goodwill, parishioners, students, student families, businesses and foundations to join us in this extraordinary effort by making a 3-year pledge to raise $12 million for Phase 1 and $7 million for Phase 2. We plan to conclude Phase 1 fundraising in approximately 5-6 months. At that point, we will determine the timing of Phase 2 fundraising. With much prayer and the support of all, we will be successful in honoring God through these new facilities at St. Brendan.





As you prayerfully consider supporting our campaign, we hope you will reflect on what St. Brendan Catholic Church means to you. To achieve our campaign goals, we will rely on the participation and generosity of our entire community. Please consider making a sacrificial gift.

Pledges are commitments made in good faith. For greater flexibility, you can fulfil your pledge over a three-year period. A commitment may be fulfilled through monthly, quarterly, semiannual or annual installments. There are many ways to contribute to the capital campaign, and most donors use the options listed below

HOW TO GIVE

Cash/Check
The most common gifts received are by cash or check. Checks should be made payable to Advancement Foundation with St. Brendan in the memo line.

Automatic Withdrawal/Credit Card Payments can be made automatically from your bank account or placed on a credit card. You may sign up on the secure donation form on our website or contact the Advancement Foundation to make the necessary arrangements.

Securities
Charitable gifts of appreciated stocks, bonds, or mutual funds offer special tax advantages and can be a great way to provide a significant gift to St. Brendan.

Life Insurance
You can donate an old policy by simply naming St. Brendan as the owner and beneficiary, or you can consider donating a new policy.

Planned Gift
Planned giving is the process of carefully selecting the best method and assets for making a charitable gift. Such a gift can enable donors to take full advantage of tax laws to accomplish their financial and charitable goals. A bequest contained in a will is the most common form of planned giving.

For assistance with donations of appreciated assets, life insurance, donor advised funds (DAFs), Qualified Charitable Distributions from an IRA, employer matching contributions or planned gifts, please contact the Advancement Foundation.

PLANNING YOUR GIFT OVER THREE YEARS

Total Gift	10% Down	Balance	Daily	Monthly	Quarterly	Semiannual	Annual
$500,000	$50,000	$450,000	$411	$12,500	$37,500	$75,000	$150,000
$250,000	$25,000	$225,000	$205	$6,250	$18,750	$37,500	$75,000
$100,000	$10,000	$90,000	$82	$2,500	$7,500	$15,000	$30,000
$50,000	$5,000	$45,000	$41	$1,250	$3,750	$7,500	$15,000
$25,000	$2,500	$22,500	$21	$625	$1,875	$3,750	$7,500
$12,000	$1,200	$10,800	$10	$300	$900	$1,800	$3,600
$10,000	$1,000	$9,000	$8	$250	$750	$1,500	$3,000
$9,000	$900	$8,100	$7	$225	$675	$1,350	$2,700
$7,500	$750	$6,750	$6	$188	$563	$1,125	$2,250
$6,000	$600	$5,400	$5	$150	$450	$900	$1,800
$5,000	$500	$4,500	$4	$125	$375	$750	$1,500
$2,500	$250	$2,250	$2	$63	$188	$375	$750

Note: The incremental payment examples are based on an initial 10 percent investment followed by the preferred payment plan for three years. Daily figures are for illustration only.







Parish Leadership

Father Ed Hopkins
Pastor
Nathan Mena
Campus Ministry Director
Mary Hall
Business Manager

Honorary Chair

Bishop Michael Olson

Campaign Chair

Bob Haschke

Campaign Cabinet

Ramon Aguilar
Mike Coggins
Lea Contreras
Nathan Haile
Rob Haney
Daniel Kernaghan
Nathan Mena
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