

BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH



*Inherited from the Past—Preserving for the Future
Capital Campaign*

Parish & Campaign Leadership

Pastor

Father Philip Pinczewski,

Campaign chairs:

Ed & Cheryl Brezinski

Finance Council:

Mary Jo Fulton

Kevin Monahan

Carmen Phillips (Chair)

David Pianta

Judith Rosatti

Deacon Jerry Sobrowski

Pastoral Council:

Jason Bish

Stephen Curcio

Jen Durney

Margie Olszewski

Joseph Scalise

Michael Scalise

Deacon Jerry Sobrowski

Lauren Theisen

John Vogel

Dear Parishioner,

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to Blessed Sacrament Parish, and your willingness to learn more about our *Inherited from the Past—Preserving for the Future Capital Campaign*. Your generosity and steadfast support of our mission have helped make Blessed Sacrament a thriving community of faith, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

In recent years, we have worked with professional architects and engineers to carefully evaluate the condition of our worship space. This assessment confirmed the necessity for important updates, especially due to water damage caused by our aging heating system. Therefore, in addition to upgrading the heating system we are also planning for other enhancements which include new air conditioning, modernizing the lighting and electrical systems, and painting the interior of the church. This work is estimated to cost approximately \$2 million, and I have enclosed the project summary for your review.

It is without question that this is a major venture! It has already required much time and effort on the part of a group of dedicated parishioners who have laid the groundwork. It will continue to require hard work and sacrifice to raise the funds necessary to carry out our plans. As we begin this significant phase of our campaign, we hope to build momentum through sacrificial pledges to realize our goal and provide encouragement to other parishioners.

After examining our potential for this campaign which was based on the results from similar parish campaigns in the region, we will need sacrificial pledges from as many parishioners as possible. Understandably, I do not know your individual financial situation, and I am very sensitive to your own personal needs. However, it has also been determined that pledges in the range of \$6,000, or \$23 per week for five years, will go a long way to ensuring our success. I also want you to know that pledges at all levels are important since we are asking for equal sacrifice - not equal giving. **Pledging over a five-year period can provide flexibility and magnify your giving.**

As we thank God for our many blessings here at Blessed Sacrament, I hope you will consider your pledge as a sign of confidence in our faith journey and in gratitude to God for His many blessings. Please review the enclosed material and prayerfully reflect on how you might be able to help. I am personally and sincerely grateful for all you have done and continue to do for our parish family.

With gratitude and blessings,

Sincerely,



Father Phil Pinczewski
Pastor



1626 West 26th Street, Erie, Pennsylvania 16508 | 814-454-0171

Blessed Sacrament Parish

Inherited from the Past—Preserving for the Future

At Blessed Sacrament Parish, our mission is to bring people closer to Christ through evangelization, liturgy and service to others. Just as we are all called to care for the souls of our parishioners, we are also called to care for the physical facilities on our campus, and, in particular, our church building, the most important space on our campus. It is this call that we wish to address through our *Inherited from the Past—Preserving for the Future Capital Campaign*.

As with any large structure that is in use daily over many years, time takes its toll and signs of wear and tear begin to surface. Eventually there is a need for our facilities to be periodically repaired and updated so that they can continue to serve as the center of our Catholic life. Making the necessary improvements and updates to Blessed Sacrament Church will allow us to continue the work started here so many years ago, while also building on the foundation laid by those good and faithful parishioners, many of whom have now gone before us.

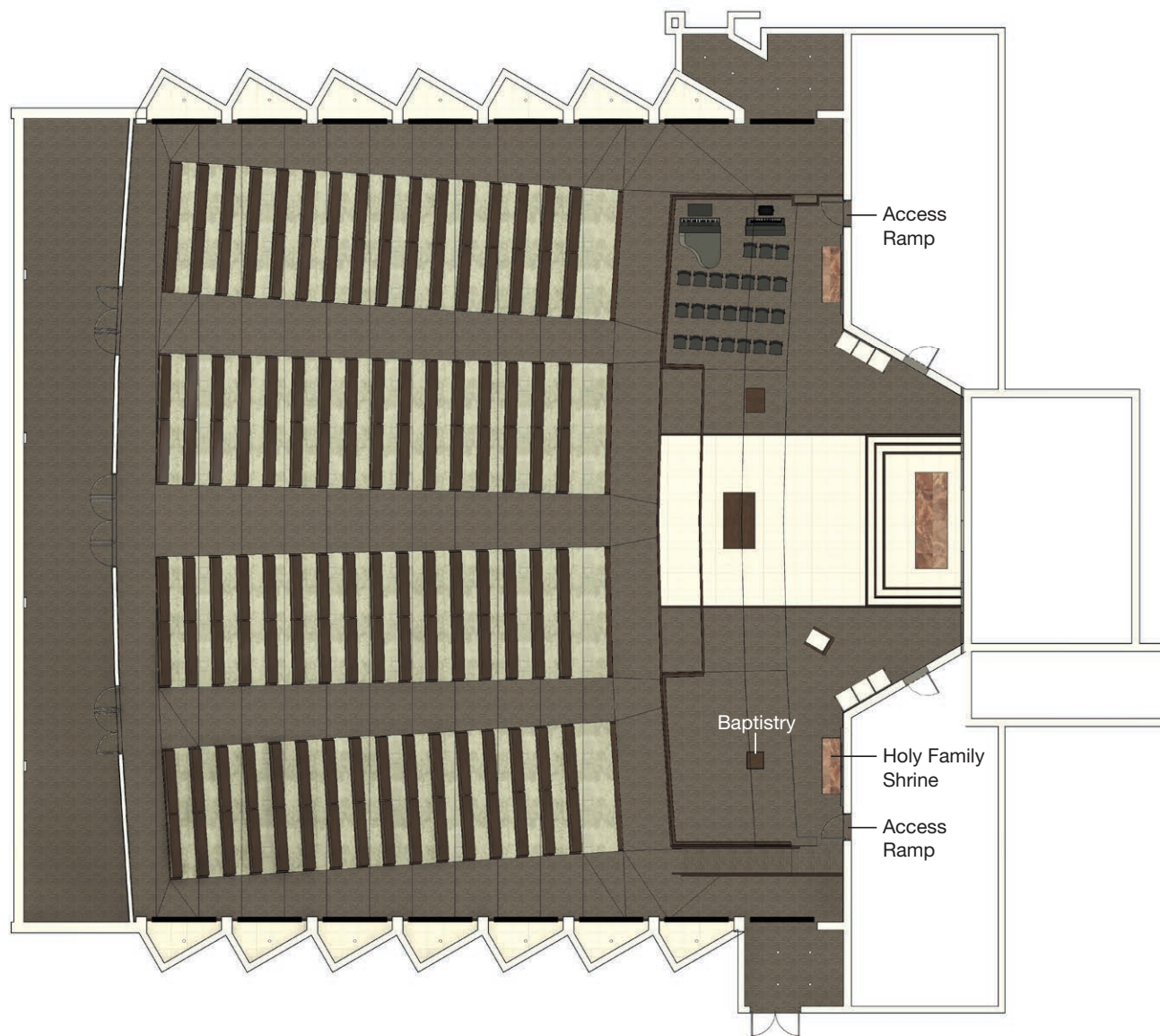
In gratitude to God for our daily and weekly celebration of Mass, as well as our celebrations of baptisms, reconciliations, weddings and funerals, I ask you to prayerfully consider your role in our campaign. While we endeavor to raise the funds necessary to complete all the projects listed, we will prioritize those that are most necessary.

Our Projects

We realize that we cannot walk away from the challenges we face at this time: a dollar spent wisely today could save five dollars in the future. The work for this project is estimated to cost over \$2 million and would help to accomplish the following:

- Replace the HVAC system to bring our church heating/air-conditioning up to maximum efficiency
- Install new air conditioning units on church roof
- Restore pews and lengthen spacing between pews
- Install new energy efficient light fixtures and major upgrades to electrical service
- Paint interior of the church and enhance ceiling
- Update the main sanctuary to include new handicap access ramps
- Expand sanctuary
- New tile flooring and carpeting
- Install new audio/visual system with enhanced video screens
- New ramp for access to the confessional

We recognize that this is an ambitious project, but we are confident that the parishioners of Blessed Sacrament will respond enthusiastically to enable the church to accomplish its goals.



**THROUGH THIS CAMPAIGN YOU WILL BE FOREVER LINKED
TO THE LEGACY OF BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH
AND THOSE WHO SACRIFICED BEFORE US.**

Inherited from the Past—Preserving for the Future Capital Campaign

WE NEED YOUR PLEDGE

We need your pledge of financial support to ensure the success of the ***Inherited from the Past—Preserving for the Future Capital Campaign***. Reaching our goal requires gifts of sacrifice rather than convenience and no one can give as much in one lump sum as could be given over a period of 60 months - except in unusual circumstances. Therefore, for the success of our campaign we are asking all parishioners to “pledge” to the best of their financial ability. This is the only way we can raise a large capital sum. With God’s help and your generosity, we will succeed.

Your pledge also provides an accounting of how you plan to contribute and this will help the parish properly anticipate the amount of funds available for various projects over the next three to five years. We ask all parishioners of Blessed Sacrament to consider the suggested gift categories and plan to budget for them accordingly, realizing that a Suggested Family Gift of \$6,000 can be made on a sacrifice of \$3.00 per day after a 10% down payment.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We understand that our parish family is comprised of individuals with a wide range of financial capability. We also believe that every member of our parish is important to our success and, therefore, each is asked to consider making a campaign pledge to the best of their financial ability. Please remember that:

**NOT EVERYONE CAN MAKE THE SAME PLEDGE BUT
EVERYONE CAN MAKE THE SAME SACRIFICE!**

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \$3.00 & + & 10\% & = & \$6,000 \\ \text{Per Day} & & \text{Downpayment} & & \text{Total Gift} \end{array}$$

HOW AND WHEN WILL WE MAKE OUR PLEDGES

Your pledge card and return envelope are included with this brochure. Please fill it out and bring it with you to Mass next weekend or on the weekend of November 23rd which is Commitment Sunday Weekend. If you are out-of-town or are unable to attend Mass on one of these weekends, **simply drop off your pledge card at the parish office or you may also return your card by mail.**

AN APPEAL FOR SPECIAL GENEROSITY - WHY MAJOR GIFTS ARE NEEDED

We realize that some of our parishioners have been blessed with the resources to contribute a *Legacy* or *Major* gift. In the past perhaps you have made one of these gifts to a university, hospital, high school, etc. **Legacy and Major gifts are also important in parish capital campaigns. These gifts allow the parish to maintain an overall average gift/pledge high enough to reach its goal.** Therefore, for the success of our campaign, Blessed Sacrament is also making an appeal to those who have been blessed with the resources to consider a campaign pledge of \$25,000, \$50,000, \$100,000 or higher.

COMMON PLEDGE PAYMENT PLANS

GIFT LEVEL	TOTAL PLEDGE	10% DOWN PAYMENT	60 MONTHLY PAYMENTS
<i>Legacy Gift</i>	\$250,000	25,000	3,750
	100,000	10,000	1,500
<i>Major Gift</i>	75,000	7,500	1,125
	50,000	5,000	750
<i>Benefactor Gift</i>	25,000	2,500	375
	20,000	2,000	300
<i>Pacesetter Gift</i>	15,000	1,500	225
	10,000	1,000	150
<i>Cornerstone Gift</i>	7,500	750	113
	6,000	600	90
	5,000	500	75

****Please note, a significant pledge of \$6,000 amounts to about \$23 per week over a five-year period.***

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

- ... Pledges to the campaign are not legally binding, rather an indication of your good intention.
- ... Pledge payments are in addition to your regular offertory contribution.
- ... You will receive special return payment envelopes to complete your pledge.
- ... Please make checks payable to Blessed Sacrament Capital Campaign.

YOUR GIFT - A LASTING MEMORIAL

Memorial gifts are a beautiful expression of lasting remembrance and will be available for designation as part of our campaign. Memorials serve as a means of contributing to our campaign while also remembering a loved one. The memorial gift plans, which range from \$5,000 and above, offer an excellent opportunity to honor and perpetuate the name of a loved one, living or deceased, or to give thanks for a special favor or blessing from God.

A memorial gift represents an ideal opportunity for individual donors to express their charitable spirit, to honor a special person or occasion, or to memorialize a family member or friend.

The amount of the memorial is based on the desirability of the item and is not determined by its actual cost. At this point you are asked to select the memorial of your choice. At a later date, a form will be mailed on which you will place the requested wording for the memorial plaque.

In addition to Memorials, a special Book of Remembrance will contain the names of all donors who wish to be acknowledged. Any gift, large or small, will be remembered this way. During a special liturgical celebration dedicating our updated worship space we will bless this book and prominently display it near the new memorial plaque to remain as a sign and symbol of the stewardship covenant between us and our God.

Preliminary Memorial Naming Opportunities*

New HVAC System	OPEN	New Tile	\$75,000
Pew Restoration	\$250,000	Expand Sanctuary	\$50,000
Painting of Church and Ceiling Enhancement	\$125,000	Ramp to Altar	\$25,000
New Lighting System	\$100,000	New Ramp for Confessional Access	\$25,000
New Carpeting	\$75,000	New Audio-Visual System and Screens	\$25,000 (each)

***A plaque or other prominent recognition with the donor's name will be posted in a central location. The amount assigned to a space or item does not necessarily correspond to its actual cost, but rather the value that was attributed to its prominence, usefulness, and symbolic attraction.**

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND

In this brochure, we have reviewed with you the need for our campaign and our plan for its success. Now we are asking each family to consider making a financial sacrifice to guarantee the success of this project.

No one can tell you how much to give, since the financial obligations of each family are different. What you give is a decision between yourself and God, the giver of every good gift. Blessed Sacrament Parish belongs to all of us, and only through sacrifice in our parish community can we achieve our goal. Therefore, all contributions, from the smallest to the largest, will be gratefully appreciated.

This is a very important project in the history of Blessed Sacrament Parish. It is also true that we have never failed in our commitments to the church. We know that through sacrifice and prayer all things are possible. This includes our parish Capital Campaign. Please make your pledge today!



TAX ADVANTAGES ON CHARITABLE GIVING

Federal and state laws on both income and inheritance taxes are designed to encourage gifts to religious organizations.

Gifts may be made a number of ways and are highlighted below:

Gifts from Current Income . . . the amount that may be deducted from an individual's current income is based on federal income tax brackets. Information in this brochure is not intended for specific legal advice, therefore the individual should discuss tax advantages with his/her tax consultants.

Gifts in the Form of Securities . . . the donor pays no capital gains taxes on securities that have increased in value since originally acquired, and may deduct the full current market value from taxable income. For more information on donating securities, please contact the parish office at 814-454-0171.

Gifts from IRA . . . A donor who is 73 or older may satisfy the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for their IRA while **avoiding the income tax liability**. Also donors who are at least 70½ can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from their IRA. A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows individuals who are at least 70½ years old to donate to Blessed Sacrament directly from a taxable IRA. **A QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA.** We are available to answer any of your questions about gifts to the campaign. Please contact us if you require any additional information.

Official receipts will be given to all contributors and may be used for federal income tax purposes.

**“MAY PEACE BE WITHIN YOUR WALLS, PROSPERITY IN YOUR
BUILDINGS. BECAUSE OF MY RELATIVES AND FRIENDS I WILL SAY,
“PEACE BE WITHIN YOU!” BECAUSE OF THE HOUSE OF THE LORD,
OUR GOD, I WILL PRAY FOR YOUR GOOD.”**

PSALM 122: 7-9





QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q... What is the overall objective of our campaign?

A... Through this capital campaign we are seeking to raise as much as possible to cover the approximate \$2 million costs associated with repairs and improvements to our church.

Q... How can I help? Can I pledge over time?

A... Our campaign offers a wide range of gift opportunities allowing parishioners to participate at many levels. You may choose a plan that provides you with both the flexibility and time to complete the payment of your pledge. After carefully reading the campaign material, make a pledge to the best of your financial ability payable over 60 months. A down payment could be applied to the current month and the remaining installments would begin in January 2026.

Q ... How and when will we make our pledges?

A ... Your pledge card and return envelope are included with this brochure. **Please fill it out and bring it with you to Mass next weekend or on the weekend of November 22 & 23 which is Commitment Sunday Weekend.** You may place your card in the offertory collection or you may also return your card by mail.

Q... Do I need to make a down payment?

A... No. We suggest a 10% down payment when the pledge is made, but this is not required. You may give less, give more, or make no payment at all. **The important step is to make the pledge.**

Q... Will there be a minimum pledge?

A... No. *However, we will need a sacrificial pledge, regardless of the amount, from all of our families. We are asking for equal sacrifice, not equal giving.* Each family is asked to make Blessed Sacrament a priority during our time of need. All pledges are important, needed and appreciated.

Q ... Can I pay for my memorial gift over 60 months?

A ... Yes, the memorial gifts can be paid in installments over time, as is the case with all gifts.

Q... Are the pledges above and beyond my regular offertory?

A... Yes. We ask that you maintain your regular Sunday offering because the parish will continue to have normal operating expenses.

**“THANKS TO THE FAVOR GOD SHOWED TO ME,
I LAID A FOUNDATION AS A WISE MASTER BUILDER MIGHT DO,
AND NOW SOMEONE IS BUILDING UPON IT.”**

1 CORINTHIANS 3:10

Blessed Sacrament Capital Campaign Prayer

Gracious God, through your Holy Spirit, you continue to bless the community of Blessed Sacrament with your abundant gifts.

Grant us your guidance in the use of these gifts as we look to the future of our parish and its pressing needs.

We remember those before us who committed their resources to create a legacy at Blessed Sacrament and we gratefully seek to follow in their example.

Loving God, as we unite in faith, hope and charity to restore our church, we ask that You direct our efforts and inspire us to respond generously to this capital campaign with our time, talent and treasure.

May our work be worthy of Your goodness and our accomplishments reflect Your glory.

Accept our prayer in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen

1626 West 26th Street, Erie, Pennsylvania 16508 | 814-454-0171