



Sunday, August 23, 2026

A REPORT TO OUR PARISH FAMILY

On the Financial Feasibility Study for a New Parish Center

Dear Parishioners,

First, I would like to thank you for your participation in our Financial Feasibility Study for a new Parish Center building!

Over the past several months, you gave your time, your honesty, and your prayer to this study. There were 393 parishioner responses — 306 through the parish-wide survey, 62 in personal interviews, and 25 through the online questionnaire — in addition to all who came to our eleven listening sessions. You told us what you love about this parish, what worries you, and what you would need to see before you could support a new Parish Center.

I am glad to report that the study was a success. The Institute for School and Parish Development (ISPD) has completed its work and has found that a capital campaign for a new Parish Center is feasible at St. Francis of Assisi Parish.

Here is what the study found, in brief:

- You hold this parish in high regard. For example, of those interviewed personally, 92% rated St. Francis of Assisi Parish to be Outstanding or Above Average, with no one rating us Below Average.
- There is real willingness to invest. More than three in four survey respondents indicated they would support a campaign financially.
- The parish is on solid ground. We carry no debt, and \$331,456 has already been set aside for the Parish Center.
- A campaign could raise between \$2.5 and \$2.8 million over a three-to-five-year pledge period. Together with the funds already designated, that would bring roughly \$3 million to the project.
- You were clear about your conditions. You want transparency at every step, a plan you can see before you are invited to give, and a genuine effort to engage our younger families. Those are fair expectations, and I intend to meet them.

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What happens next:

We are bringing these findings to the Diocese of Belleville for review. We have already shared them with the Diocesan Office of Facilities and Risk Management. We are also beginning a search process to engage an architect, so that we can put before you a real design, a location, and estimated costs — the very thing so many of you requested. If and when diocesan approval is given, we will move into campaign organization and invite parishioners into leadership roles.

These are exciting times for St. Francis of Assisi Parish. This parish has talked about a parish center since 2011. We have the data, the direction, and the confidence to move forward together.

Thank you again for your generosity in this process. Please keep this effort in your prayers, as I keep all of you in mine.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Von Deeke". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and slightly larger than the others.

Fr. Von Deeke

Pastor

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church