



February 2026

My Dear Parishioners,

As we begin this journey together through Lent, I give thanks to God for each of you, for your families, and for the many ways you contribute to the life and mission of our parish. I am writing to share an update on the progress of the *Building Our Future* capital campaign and to humbly ask for your continued prayers and support.

As you know, we are renovating our church and remodeling the downstairs kitchen and social hall — where we host so much outreach to those in need. Our church is already beautiful, but it needs improvements for accessibility and infrastructure. We are also building:

- A new foyer for the social hall
- A separate Adoration Chapel
- An expansion of our cemetery

This will prepare our worship and gathering spaces for generations to come.

The Challenges

When we first launched the campaign, our goal was **\$10 million**. At that time, estimates were based on projected “cost per square foot,” since contractors had not yet been engaged.

In May 2025, after contractors were brought on board, we received the first detailed construction estimates. At that point, projected costs were closer to **\$11 million**.

Demolition began in July 2025 after permits were secured. As construction progressed, we uncovered several unforeseen issues:

- Asbestos in the church floor that required abatement
- Structural reinforcement is needed in the flooring
- No insulation in the walls (now required by building code)
- Additional permit delays (which incurred more expense)

These unexpected conditions expanded the scope — and cost — of the project. Rather than announce incremental increases along the way, I chose to wait until we had finalized bids from subcontractors so that we could provide a complete and accurate update.

By October, with actual bids in hand, the projected total came to **approximately \$13 million**. That number was difficult to receive. After much consultation and prayerful consideration of all options, we concluded that completing the project properly and safely is the right path forward.

Therefore, we are adjusting our campaign goal to **\$13 million**.

Responsible Stewardship

We have built a strong contingency into the budget. Together with our contractor, architects, and construction team, we are carefully monitoring every expense.

Our Campaign Cabinet meets almost weekly and remains confident that we can meet this goal. They — and I — are increasing our own financial commitments.

We are currently speaking with major donors, many of whom have responded generously. Later this year, we will also make a general appeal so that every parishioner has the opportunity to participate.

How You Can Help

If you are able, here are some ways to assist:

- **Extend your pledge:** If you made a 3-year pledge, consider adding a 4th year of payments.
- **Make an additional gift:** If you gave a one-time gift, consider a second or third contribution.
- **Increase a completed pledge:** If you have fulfilled your pledge, you may consider augmenting it.

Some donors have even doubled their original gift to help meet this challenge.

No gift is too small. Every contribution matters.

We will also continue to pursue additional grant opportunities.

The Great News

Despite these challenges, there is much to celebrate!

- We have reached over **\$10 million in pledges**.
- We have already collected **\$6.7 million in cash**.
- We have received **\$300,000 in grants**.

This strong support allows us to “pay as we go” throughout construction.

I am confident that, with your continued generosity and faith, we will reach our new goal of **\$13 million**.

Thank you for thoughtfully and prayerfully considering how you might support this important effort for our future. May God bless you and your loved ones.

Your brother in Christ,
Rev. John Kerns, Pastor