

2025

LEAD WITH BEAUTY:

AN INVITATION TO ENCOUNTER CHRIST

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN *for* **ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CHURCH**

10700 Aboite Center Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46804-5444

(260) 432-0268 | www.church.org





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Dear Family,

So many things at Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton parish leave our hearts full of gratitude to God. Our catholic parish family on the southwest of Fort Wayne has a rich history of worship, prayer, evangelization, service, and community over the past four decades. Since even before our current campus, parishioners have experienced many of life's most important moments of faith, whether it be through the Mass, Baptisms, First Communions, weddings, our faith formation programs, the parish school, or our various ministries and fun events like Setonfest. It is a great blessing to be your pastor and witness each day how our community of missionary disciples lives out the Church's mission.

Over ten years ago, Fr. Jim Shafer developed extensive renovation plans for the church and raised funds for a multi-faceted project that ultimately was needed for school expansion. While that project certainly benefited our parish as a whole by creating a stronger community, many of our parishioners only experienced that benefit indirectly. Our current renovations of the church have addressed that imbalance, because the recently completed Phase I renovations in church benefit all of us every week. As we look to complete the project with Phase II Renovations, we expect even greater benefits to our parish community **as a whole**. But it doesn't stop there: our next step in renovations will actually help our parish to bring a powerful message to the local community day in, day out.

What is our mission? Why do we exist? Our parish staff recently answered this question with the following words: **we exist to be the bridge that brings our local community** to God and brings God to our local community. Phase I of church renovations over the past couple years has helped us to live the first part of our mission, summarized by the words of Saint Paul's Letter to the Romans that encircle us in the church: **"present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, your spiritual worship."** I have received much positive feedback from the first phase of renovations, hearing time and again that people are surprised and impressed with the changes, so often using the word "beautiful." A fellow priest said it is "like heaven." That is exactly the purpose of these renovations: to help us visualize what we are told about

the Mass and about the Domus Dei ("House of God") - that it is a taste of heaven on earth, the meeting place between present and eternity. I pray that it continues to foster our sense of the sacred and our ability to encounter God in prayer.

Our second phase of renovations will help to live out the other part of our mission: to bring God to our local community, which is not secondary but an essential part of how we live out Jesus' command to "go and make disciples." (Mt. 28:19)

For these reasons, after much consultation and discernment, we are embarking on a capital campaign to raise \$3.5 million, that will allow us to complete our renovation plans and help us live our full mission as a parish and "lead with beauty."

The enclosed brochure shares the plans to ensure that we raise the funds necessary to lead with beauty and invite others to discover abundant life in Christ that is showered upon us here at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Whether you are new to this community or have been here from the beginning, I ask you to prayerfully reflect on how you have been blessed by this parish. I invite you to prayerfully consider how you are able to contribute your financial gifts to this crucial effort for our parish and join with me in praying for the success of our campaign project. Sacrificial giving is an expression of our faith and puts it into action - and without prayer, our efforts bear less fruit for God's kingdom.

The Suggested Gift Chart details pledges ranging from \$2,500 to \$50,000, payable over three years. That is as little as only two dollars and fifty cents per day over 36 months. This wide range of gift opportunities makes it possible for virtually every family to take part financially in our efforts.

Time will be set aside during all Masses on the weekend of June 22, 2025 for the faithful of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish to make their pledge. As leaders of our parish, I am asking you to prayerfully discern your pledge and return your card to the parish office by May 30, 2025.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous support for our parish as we look to the future with hope and continue to build the Kingdom of God.

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

Father Terry Coonan
Pastor

Our Parish History

The first regular Masses in our area were at Haverhill school, with a priest from Saint Joseph parish driving out and local Catholics helping to set up everything for Mass, and even bringing their own chairs. As the community blossomed, Bishop John M. D'Arcy founded the parish of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church on January 1st, 1988, appointing Rev. Robert Schulte as its pastor. Two and a half years later, the newly-built church housed its first Mass, on Sept. 8, 1990. 18 months later, we bought more land for future expansion, and then had a rectory built for the pastor in 1995 so he didn't have to "commute" to be with his parish family. Another building project saw the first wing of school classrooms, also used for Religious Education classes (who previously used the parish hall). Then another expansion completed in 2015 saw the school grow fully independent from Saint Joseph parish, who also benefited from more available space.

From humble beginnings, the faith has flourished along with the urban development of our local area. Since our founding we have had around 3,150 baptisms, 4,120 Confirmations, 4,180 1st Communions, 700 weddings, 960 funerals, and 558 grade school graduates (since we became a stand-alone school in 2015). Five men who grew up at our parish are now priests in our diocese. Some are religious sisters, some permanent deacons, many faithful spouses and fathers and mothers. We are currently about 7,000 parishioners, all of us united in the hope that is Christ Jesus himself.



Campaign Case

The purpose of our project is three-fold: First, it will finalize our intention to "lead with beauty" in the work of our interior renovations, most importantly the reinstallation of our organ so that our church can resonate with the full joy that can only be achieved by that instrument which church documents declares has pride of place for its ability to support the human voice in songs of praise. The choir loft will allow for more seating in church near the altar.

Secondly, it will create a greater dignity to the narthex and the main entrance of church. The new baptismal area will emphasize the importance of this sacrament as the gateway to the Church's life, and will allow for more easy participation for overflow seating in the narthex.

Finally, this project will also "lead with beauty" in our presentation to the wider community, extending to the world an "invitation to encounter Christ," so that the first impressions of our church attract others into the life of faith and Christian discipleship in our parish community.

How Can You Help?

This is our opportunity to enhance the most beautiful gift we can give to the future generations of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton families.

How can you help Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton accomplish our Goals?

1 First, Pray.
Pray for God's provision and your opportunity to take part in the transformation of our beautiful church.

2 Second, give a gift today.
We are asking that you consider how generous God has been to you, and that you respond in proportion to your own financial ability.

3 Third, be a part of this exciting movement!
Be an advocate for Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton! Our future generations need your help to spread the word, and to invite others to participate.

THANK YOU!



Project Scope

Choir Loft with stair and lift access for 40 or more choir members.

More seating in church right up front where the choir used to be positioned.

The Organ to be reinstalled and re-configured as needed for its new location behind the choir.

A new baptismal font to address the problems caused by years of damage in our current font.



Bell tower announcing in beautiful sound the Good News of the Gospel to the area (electronic tolling system).

Large and beautiful façade of church to welcome and invite others into the church, the clear center of our parish's life.

A larger steeple with a cross on top to clearly identify the purpose of our facility.

A rose window facing above the main entrance and shining light down into the gathering space.

A new large meeting room in a comfortable, beautiful setting on the second floor.

New pews and kneelers to fix problem of many broken parts, difficult to clean upholstery, and uncomfortable kneelers.

Updated and improved restrooms, to accommodate space for the new stairwells to the second floor, as well as a nearby maintenance closet for easy access.

Priest vesting Sacristy moved to new location so that space near gathering area can be prioritized for more important needs.

Coat room moved nearby so that lift access can be next to stairway.

A dedicated space for the welcome center.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. When will the work begin?

A. The work will begin as the funds become available from the Capital Campaign.

Q. What will happen if we go over our goal?

A. All gifts collected after we exceed our goal will be put towards the maintenance and upkeep of our facilities.

Q. Why should I make a pledge?

A. Most people take advantage of time-payments for major purchases. A pledge to the parish Capital Campaign is a “time-payment plan” that makes it possible for you to meet your parish obligations without undue hardship. Pledges enable you to consider a more significant contribution to the campaign rather than a one-time gift.

Q. Is my pledge over and above my Sunday Offering?

A. Yes. We can only reach our goal with a little extra sacrifice. We cannot reach our goal if we reduce our weekly offerings in order to make a pledge to the Capital Campaign. The parish will continue to have normal operating expenses during the pledge period.

Q. Who will be asked to support the Campaign?

A. All members of the parish community will be invited to participate. It is our hope that every parish family will contribute generously to the future of the parish, according to their financial means. We trust everyone will play a dedicated role in shaping the parish’s future.

Q. Can I fulfill my pledge online?

A. Yes! You can fulfill your pledge using your current Online Giving account or you can create an **Online Giving account**. Visit our website for information on setting up your payments electronically.

Q. What happens if I cannot fulfill my pledge?

A. Pledges are made in good faith and accepted as such. If hardship or illness prevents you from fulfilling your pledge, let the parish know, and other arrangements will be made.

Q. What if I would like to give stocks, real estate or some other kind of gift?

A. There are several ways to support our campaign, please see the ways to give section on the next pages of this brochure or call the parish office.

More Questions?

Contact the Parish at **(260) 432-0268**

or by email: **leadwithbeauty@seasfw.org**



Three-Year Gift Table

TOTAL PLEDGE	36 MONTHLY PAYMENTS	12 QUARTERLY PAYMENTS	6 SEMI-ANNUAL PAYMENTS	3 ANNUAL PAYMENTS
\$300,000	\$8,333	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$100,000
\$200,000	\$5,556	\$16,667	\$33,333	\$66,667
\$100,000	\$2,777	\$8,333	\$16,667	\$33,333
\$75,000	\$2,083	\$6,250	\$12,500	\$25,000
\$50,000	\$1,389	\$4,167	\$8,333	\$16,667
\$25,000	\$694	\$2,083	\$4,167	\$8,333
\$10,000	\$278	\$833	\$1,667	\$3,333
\$7,500	\$208	\$625	\$1,250	\$2,500
\$5,000	\$139	\$417	\$833	\$1,667
\$2,500	\$69	\$208	\$417	\$833

Ways to Give

Pledge Installments

You will receive reminder notices in accordance with the payment method you select. Please make your checks payable to: **Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church & Lead with Beauty: An Invitation to Encounter Christ.**

Tax-Deductible Gifts

All gifts are tax deductible as provided by law.

IRA Gifts*

People over 70 ½ years old may also be eligible to make a charitable gift from your IRA assets with no tax complications.

**Talk with your financial advisor for more information on making these types of charitable donations.*

Stocks & Bonds*

There are added advantages to giving stocks, bonds, and securities.

Matching Gifts

Many firms have matching gift programs to provide incentive for their employees to make charitable donations. Please ask your Human Resources department for a matching gift form. Both current and retired employees may be eligible.

Wills & Bequests

Providing for **Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Church** in your will can have significant federal and estate tax advantages. For additional information, please contact the parish office at **260-432-0268** or email **business@seasfw.org**



Fulfilling Your Pledge



You can set your recurring pledge payment using your bank account or credit card by using Online Giving. Visit our website at www.seasfw.org/online-giving to set up your account.



Use your campaign envelope. Bring it to mass or mail it to the parish office.



Explore using tax advantaged charitable gifts such as IRA distributions, Gifts of Stock or remembering the parish in your will. Talk with your financial advisor for more information on making these types of charitable donations.



Scan this QR code with your phone to be taken directly to our campaign page on our website.

Campaign Prayer

Heavenly Father,

We praise you for you are the source of life. We thank you for our church and the many blessings you have given us for almost 40 years.

Open our hearts and minds to you and help us to be good stewards of the gifts you have given us. Help us to be like Mary, always faithful to you.

We especially pray for the success of our capital campaign, that we may step forward together in faith and recommit ourselves to your mission of love. May our effort, combined with your grace, allow us to continue bringing people to Christ for generations to come.

AMEN.



ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CHURCH

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