

“Q and A” Update Sheet About Upcoming Projects and Campaigns at SFC Parish

Why are we entering a new capital campaign?

The Archbishop surveyed all of the pastors in 2019 to ask if parishes had needs that were too large to fund with regular stewardship contributions for operations. The majority of the pastors indicated that we did have important projects to fund, which coincided with a similar need for major project funding on the part of the Archdiocese. The Archbishop subsequently initiated an Archdiocesan-wide capital campaign for all parishes in order to fund both local parish needs as well as Archdiocesan needs that did not fit within the scope of the ministries typically funded with the annual Catholic Stewardship Appeal. The Archbishop chose the name “Love One Another” for this new campaign. Every parish in the Archdiocese will participate in the LOA Campaign, entering in a series of staggered waves. SFC Parish will enter in “Wave One,” which runs from January of 2022 to June of 2022.

Who Established the SFC Parish Campaign goal of \$1.95 Million?

The fundraising consultants that the Archdiocese is utilizing to help with the Love One Another Campaign conducted a parish-by-parish giving analysis to generate specific goals for each parish as well as a total goal for the entire Archdiocese. The SFC parish goal of just over \$1.95 million is based on the past few years of our total parish giving history. The total Archdiocesan campaign goal of \$150 million is based on a combined total of all the parish goals in the Archdiocese.

Explain how the LOA campaign donations are split between SFC Parish needs and Archdiocesan needs.

The LOA campaign will involve requests for donation commitments from parish members to be paid across five years. The total amount of all the donations from each parish will be split with a portion going to the projects identified for support by the Archbishop (40% of the total), and a portion going to fund the projects that each parish has identified for its local campaign case statement (60% of the total). The SFC parish goal is just over \$1.95 million, which means that we receive \$1.17 million of that total for our local projects. If we fall short of our goal, then we receive 60% of whatever the total funds turn out to be. For example, if we only raise \$1 million total for the LOA campaign, then SFC parish receives \$600,000 in donations.

What is the SFC \$1.17 million portion of the total going to be used for?

The monies are designated as follows: \$10,000 to our Haiti Outreach ministry; approximately \$1.05 million to help fund facilities improvements in the church, school, and day care; approximately \$115,000/the remaining balance to future facilities needs.

What are the school and daycare facilities improvements we want to help fund with LOA donations?

We need to completely remodel and upgrade the four oldest bathrooms in the school building: two in the middle school and two in the elementary school. We also need to begin phasing in a replacement of all the existing roof-top heating/AC units in the daycare, proceeding as funds and pricing on these units allow.

What is planned for the renovation of the church worship space?

We are replacing: the existing carpeted areas with a combination of tile and hardwood flooring; the existing 60-year-old pews with new hardwood pews; the existing altar furniture with new furniture that matches the design, proportions, and finish of the new pews; the existing wall artwork with new paint and murals; the lighting controls and the interior narthex doors. We will be installing metal railings along all the edges of the sanctuary, and we will re-position the existing music area so that it faces the sanctuary. Estimates for all of this work, attempting to plan for price increases as well, is approximately \$1 Million, some of which could come from other existing sources of funding besides the campaign.

What will happen to the existing large crucifix in the sanctuary?

The existing crucifix will be moved to the church narthex where it will be mounted to the existing beams that frame the large windows facing 7th Avenue. It will be lit with spotlights from within the narthex for better visibility of its features.

Is it unusual for a Catholic church not to have a large crucifix over the altar?

There are a variety of modes of sanctuary adornment in Catholic liturgical spaces. Having a large crucifix is one mode among many and is more recent historically. More common in prior eras was to adorn the sanctuary with a large painting. Examples of prominent worship spaces in our area that have a large painting/image that is not a large crucifix behind the altar include: Holy Hill Basilica main church and chapels, Saint Francis Seminary main chapel, Old Saint Mary’s in Milwaukee, Saint Josaphat’s Basilica in Milwaukee, Saint Mary’s in Barton prior to 1968, and Saint Frances Cabrini in West Bend prior to 2001 (the existing crucifix replaced a statue of the Risen Christ).

What will happen to the current organ?

Our organ was the final organ built by the Schaefer Organ Company in Slinger, installed in 1969. All of its pipes and mechanics are in good shape for their age and we regularly maintain them with a local tuner. They are all located directly behind the large screen behind the altar. Installation of the new altar mural will require a complete overlay of drywall on the existing rear sanctuary wall, which will slightly muffle a portion of the frequency range of the organ pipes. To compensate for this we will do what other churches in similar situations have done, which is to mic the interior organ chamber and use the existing church speaker system to fill in the frequency gaps caused by the drywall. Our organ tech, sound company, and mural design studio have all agreed on the specifics of this detail based on their similar work in other churches in our area. The existing organ counsel will be re-positioned as well to better fit within the new orientation of the music area. The costs for this work are all included in our total project estimates.

What will the new murals depict?

Three new murals will be installed in the worship space. The central mural in the sanctuary will encompass the entire existing rear wall, floor to ceiling. It depicts Christ the King, coming on the clouds of heaven, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, and surrounded by the Saints and Angels. This image aligns well with our church's interior architectural features, especially the beams that form a sanctuary crown above the altar, and with our lights that radiate out from the altar. There will be a mural in the left corner of the worship space depicting the Blessed Mother as Queen of Heaven holding the Child Jesus. The mural in the opposite, right corner will depict Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini ministering to the poor.

Is it permissible for Catholic churches to have altar rails?

Altar rails are part of the ancient liturgical floorplan of Catholic worship spaces that mirrors the original meeting tent of the Book of Exodus as well as the Jerusalem Temple wherein there was an inner and outer sanctuary for offering sacrifice. As such an altar rail is a decorative piece of furniture used to demark different areas of a worship space. There is no mention of a requirement to remove altar rails in the documents of Vatican II or in the new 1970 Roman Missal currently in use. They are present in several prominent churches in our area including the Basilica of Holy Hill and Saint Josephat's Basilica.

The new altar rail at SFC will be one piece of a much longer set of new railings that will be installed for safety along what will now be two, matching accessibility ramps to the sanctuary, also along the north and south edges of the sanctuary, and also along the edges of the new music area risers. The portion of the rail in the front of the sanctuary will not have a gate due to space limitations, and will be only 15 feet long on each side. Access to the sanctuary will still be possible directly from the front, also from the sides near the ambo and cantor stand, and also from the two ramps at the back. There will also be new handrails to assist with access via the steps on the sides of the sanctuary in approximately the same locations as the current side railings.

Will we be using the altar rail to distribute Holy Communion at SFC?

An altar rail may be used to distribute Holy Communion exclusively if it is the case that a large segment of a worshipping community prefers to use it for this purpose. Current Catholic liturgical practice allows Communion to be given either kneeling or standing, in the hand or on the tongue. With the altar rail, SFC will continue to allow our worshipers the freedom of choosing any of these permitted manners of receiving Communion. Currently it is very difficult to safely and reverently distribute Communion to persons who are attempting to receive Communion while kneeling. The presence of the altar rail will allow a priest and the faithful the safety and freedom of exercising any of those options with proper reverence based on their individual preferences.

Is it necessary to make all these changes to the church? Why not re-use some items?

Through everyone's amazing generosity over the past decade here, we have made huge improvements to every other sector of the campus except the worship space. If a parish does not maintain a beautiful and uplifting worship space it tends to communicate the impression to visitors, and to regular worshipers, that our worship space is not our top priority. Every other ministry that we support here is sustained by our worship space. We might be able to get by for awhile with mixing and matching some old furniture or styles with new ones, but doing so creates a poor appearance within a space that needs to be our best. Much of the current furniture is already showing signs of permanent damage, including the ambo and many of the pews. The upgrades we are making will allow us to have a beautiful worship space for many decades to come.

When will all of this work take place? Will we have Mass in the main church during the construction work?

The work on the school bathrooms we hope to complete in two phases, doing two bathrooms in one summer and the remaining two the following summer. We hope to begin the first phase in the summer of 2022 but it will depend upon fundraising, availability of materials, and contractor schedules.

The timing of the church renovation will depend in part upon fundraising, availability of contractors and materials, and other events already scheduled in the church. Substantial work will not begin any earlier than November 1st of 2022 due to our wedding schedule for the coming year. An optimal timeline has the work completed by late summer of 2023. We plan to celebrate weekend Masses in the main church throughout the renovation. Weekday Masses and funerals will likely move to Saint Mary's at times. We will attempt to maintain one 8am weekday Mass each week at SFC for all-school Masses.

What is the status of the work on the new Adoration Chapel and Confessionals?

The construction work currently taking place adjacent to the narthex is NOT part of the upcoming LOA campaign, and we are working as hard as we can to complete it all by mid-February so that we can move on to other projects. Included in the work is a new chapel for perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, and two new confessionals that better incorporate Safe Environment guidelines. One confessional will only offer the option of confession behind the screen, and the other, main confessional will offer both a face-to-face and behind the screen option. Also included in the same construction project is some light remodeling and reorganizing work in the two rear sacristies.

Will Father Nathan be remaining in West Bend to oversee these major campaigns and projects?

The Archbishop has been made aware of the timing of the capital campaigns and major projects that are planned for both SFC and SMIC parishes as they relate to the status of Father Nathan's assignment as shared pastor. There is a mutual desire on the part of the Archdiocese, and the parish leadership, and Father Nathan for his time as shared pastor to continue so that these projects can reach a successful completion. He plans to remain in West Bend in order to finish all of these projects.