



on the Shoulders of GIANTS

Strengthening Our Legacy



CAMPAIGN QUESTIONS

Why are we conducting a campaign?

Our beautiful church has maintenance issues that need to be resolved to preserve the building itself. Once the building is safe and sound, we can start to work on restoring the interior to look much as it did when it was originally designed.

We also will install HVAC systems in both the elementary and high schools, replacing boiler infrastructures that are over 60 years old. By installing HVAC systems, both schools will have air conditioning for the first time!

As good stewards of our parish finances and facilities, we must proactively address these needs. Generous and consistent support from our parishioners, alumni and visitors allows us to fund our normal operations and ministries, but we must conduct a campaign to raise additional funds to make necessary updates to our church and schools.

What are the goals of our campaign? What are the breakout costs?

The *On the Shoulders of Giants: Strengthening Our Legacy* Campaign will secure funds to pay for construction and administrative costs to preserve and restore our church as well as install HVAC systems in our schools.

The Parish Council and Finance Committee have decided on the following goals and funding sequence for our campaign:

CELEBRATION GOAL = \$1,264,000

- Lavigne Family Foundation Matching Gift (*applied toward the grade school HVAC system*): **\$200,000**
- Preservation of the church building
 - Tuckpointing: **\$138,000**
 - Replace the windows in the basement and towers: **\$54,000**
 - Replace concrete surrounding the church: **\$90,000**
 - Scaffolding: **\$202,000**
 - Replaster and repaint interior church walls, including the sanctuary: **\$580,000**

Note: a generous donation from a parish family to replace the roof, gutters and downspouts has not been included in the campaign goals, as this project is already paid for and close to completion.

VICTORY GOAL = \$2,432,000

- (*includes Celebration Goal*)
- Balance of the HVAC system for the grade school: **\$1,168,000**

CHALLENGE GOAL = \$2,936,000

- (*includes Celebration and Victory Goals*)
- Partial restoration of the church interior
 - Replace flooring inside the church: **\$75,000**
 - Repair and restore all church pews and kneelers: **\$200,000**
 - Upgrade the HVAC system: **\$40,000**
 - Faux paint all columns to look like marble: **\$189,000**

Once our campaign goals are met, we have several long-term goals that will be next on our priority list.

LONG-TERM GOALS

- Install the HVAC system in the high school (**\$1,079,000**)
- Renovate east and west sacristies (**\$60,000**)
- Move church organ and all pipes to the choir loft (**\$500,000**)
- Commission and install the high altar (**\$472,000**)
- Commission and install the two side altars (**\$446,000**)
- Paint and hang the mural (**\$127,000**)

How much money has been raised so far?

Before the campaign was even approved, several parishioners and donors stepped up in big ways to kickstart our efforts. A parish family is helping to fund concrete replacement. Another parishioner's regular payments over the past two years will assist with church repairs. Adding to that, several parishioners and alumni provided unsolicited checks with their planning study surveys.

All told, as of March 15, 2024, a total of **\$142,497** has been raised for the *On the Shoulders of Giants* capital campaign.



PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION QUESTIONS

Why are we only doing a partial restoration of the church interior?

Once parish leaders determined that we would move forward with a campaign, one of the first tasks was to obtain updated estimates from all our vendors. Unfortunately, costs for all our original goals have risen to the point that we had to make some tough decisions. Based on the feedback we received during the planning study, we are focusing on the elements that parishioners feel are the most important. We will start with the flooring, pews, kneelers, HVAC and columns. We will look at funding the other projects (for example, moving the church organ) at a later date.

Will the communion rail be replaced in the church?

St. Patrick does not plan to include a communion rail in the renovation of the interior. With limited room on and near the altar and the growing size of modern wedding parties, a communion rail is not practical at this time.

How can I help?

Right now, the best way you can help is to keep St. Patrick, St. Mary's and the *On the Shoulders of Giants* campaign in your daily prayers.

At the end of April, every member of the parish will receive information on how you can contribute.

If you would like to volunteer your time and talent as a volunteer for the campaign, please contact Kim Guyer at 402-517-1637.

SCHOOL HVAC QUESTIONS

Weren't the boilers at St. Mary's replaced with funds from our previous campaigns?

The boilers at the high school and grade school were replaced in 2008 and 2012, respectively. However, the infrastructures supporting these boilers, including the pipes, vents and valves, are original to the buildings' construction in the 1960s. Pipes are leaking, joints are breaking, circulating pump motors are failing, and replacement parts are not available for a system that old. That means the boilers – while working fine on their own for providing hot water – cannot utilize their distribution system to heat the buildings effectively or efficiently. By replacing the boilers with an HVAC system, we will bypass the old infrastructure. An HVAC system also will include air conditioning, which has been on the schools' wish list for many years.

St. Mary's schools have never had air conditioning; it's not critical. Why are we spending so much on it now?

Keeping rooms at a consistent temperature has become a herculean task, with neighboring classrooms varying as much as 20 degrees simultaneously. Uncomfortable kids make poor students, and uncomfortable teachers and staff members only compound the issue. We want our students and teachers to have a learning environment that helps them be their best selves!

When the boilers were originally installed, the school year was shorter and did not include as many seasonally hot days as it does today, lowering the need for air conditioning significantly. Since installing HVAC systems in their entirety is critical, there is no reason not to include air conditioning at this time.

What is the Lavigne Family Foundation matching gift?

Last summer, the Archdiocese of Omaha reached out to St. Mary's school. A donor had come forward who was interested in supporting the infrastructure of Catholic grade schools, and the archdiocese suggested St. Mary's as a great candidate. St. Mary's immediately reached out to the donor with our existing plans for an HVAC system.

In November 2023, the Lavigne Family Foundation approved a matching grant worth \$200,000 to St. Mary's grade school for the express purpose of installing an HVAC system in the building. In order to claim the matching grant, St. Mary's must raise an equal amount (\$200,000) by November 30, 2024.

