



F R E Q U E N T L Y A S K E D Q U E S T I O N S

What modifications to the preliminary plans presented in our 2017-18 Next Step Campaign are now part of the project?

While the overall project features are the same, the Building Committee has worked for the last 12 months with architects and contractors to fine tune, prioritize, and value engineer the project to match our needs and priorities with expected available resources.

How were final decisions made regarding the project?

In July 2019, the Building Committee held parishioner input meetings and continued to meet regularly with the architect, general contractor, and Diocese representatives to review options leading to the final plans.

Do we have all the funding necessary to complete a new church and classroom addition?

We still need to receive additional pledges of \$4.5 million in the Building Our Faith Campaign to complete funding.

In 2017, the Next Step Campaign information indicated a need for a 2020 campaign to raise approximately \$8 million and a 2021 groundbreaking. Why is that now \$4.5 million?

Two very generous parishioners stepped forward each pledging an additional \$2 million as a challenge to the rest of the parish and to allow us to move forward one year earlier than projected before again being delayed until 2021 due to COVID-19. They did this in an effort to encourage every parishioner to consider a sacrificial gift to help us fulfill the long-awaited vision of our new church and additional classrooms.

What is the current expected cost of the church and classroom addition?

The total expected project cost including all construction costs, fees, furnishings, miscellaneous costs, and loan interest is approximately \$14,250,000.

How much of the cost of the project do we have in hand and how much additional is already pledged?

As of August, 2020, we had approximately \$6.5 million cash in hand and \$3.0 million of outstanding parishioner pledges. We have already paid approximately \$750,000 of the project costs. These numbers change regularly as we collect pledges and pay project related bills.

Will the Phase 2 expansion increase the annual costs of operating our parish and school?

It is estimated that the annual additional operating cost will be approximately \$100,000 and a decision was made by the parish Finance Committee to prefund five-years of this increase in our Building Our Faith Campaign.

How much interior church artwork will the project include at this time?

Most interior artwork, the stained glass, and the organ are not included in the current construction budget. Funds raised above and beyond the \$4.5 million Building Our Faith campaign goal will help fund these enhancements.

To complete all planned interior artwork as a part of Phase 2, how much additional money would we need to raise in the Building Our Faith campaign?

Preliminary estimates for the interior artwork is estimated to be \$1,000,000. We have not yet received additional estimations for stained glass or an organ for the choir loft.

Do current plans allow for additional school, church, and parish storage and meeting spaces?

Yes, both meeting spaces and storage needs were important considerations for both the church and classroom additions.

How will the current space used for Mass be repurposed?

The Commons will continue to serve as the school lunchroom but will now be available for parish functions without the time-consuming need to totally reconfigure the seating each time.

What is the plan for the portables?

At this point, there is no final plan. The Building Committee believes it is best to wait until we have moved into our new facility to consider options for the portables including repurposing or removing.

The Phase 2 plans call for the lower level to be finished as classrooms. Is school enrollment growing?

While school enrollment is gradually increasing, other considerations include age and maintenance cost of the eight portable classrooms, as well as student security issues related to the use of portables. The combination of these issues makes the classroom addition an important component.

When do we believe that we will be able to hold Mass in our new church and move into the new classroom expansion?

While weather and other factors might impact the schedule, it is hoped that we can hold Mass in our new church by Christmas 2022 and occupy the classrooms soon after.

Do we have any assurance that the Diocese of Lincoln will not split St. Michael's parish in the future?

While we cannot predict all future contingencies, it is our desire to maintain our parish boundaries in light of the investment our parishioners are making in the parish's future. Given financial constraints, it is unlikely that a new parish will be formed in the near future.

When will the Building Our Faith campaign be conducted?

The campaign will be divided into multiple phases starting in fall 2020 and ending in early 2021. All parishioners will be asked to consider a sacrificial five-year pledge or pledge extension. Four parish couples have agreed to co-chair the Building Our Faith campaign.

How do I make a pledge to the Campaign?

All parishioners will be encouraged to consider a specific gift amount over a 5-year pledge or pledge extension period during one of the campaign phases in Fall/Winter 2020.

If I make a pledge or pledge extension to the Building Our Faith Campaign, when will I need to pay the pledge?

While the length of the pledge payment period will vary depending on the status of your current pledges, it is hoped that all prior and new pledges will be paid, if possible, by December 31, 2026 to allow payoff of our Phase 2 construction loan.

What if I can't commit to the pledge amount that I was asked to consider?

Each parish family must determine for themselves an amount that is truly sacrificial. We will only reach our campaign goal if all parishioners give sacrificially.

What options do I have for payment of my Building Our Faith pledge?

Many parishioners choose the ease of weekly or monthly ACH automatic payments over a 5-year period. Others choose to write checks monthly, quarterly, or annually. If you wish to pay your pledge with stock or by another means, please contact Business Manager Bill Graeve at Bill-Graeve@cdolinc.net.

If I'm still paying on a prior pledge will I need to make payments on both pledges at the same time?

No, you can just extend your payment period and continue to pay on your prior pledge until complete and then begin payment on your new pledge.

We have been transferred to this area and will probably move in a few years. Why should we contribute to a campaign that might not directly benefit our family?

More than likely, you have been the beneficiaries of current facilities in this parish as well as in prior parishes. When you move and join another parish, you will benefit from the generosity of others in your new parish.

Will I need to maintain my normal church support?

Yes! Church support is critical to fund normal operating expenses of the parish. We depend on these contributions to maintain the parish and its programs.

Will St. Michael have debt or a mortgage when Phase 2 is complete?

Diocese policy only allows parishes to borrow against outstanding pledges. A successful Building Our Faith Campaign will allow us to borrow the entirety of construction costs from the Diocese Investment and Loan program while parishioner pledges are being paid. If all pledges are paid on time, we will again be debt free.

What options will exist to attend Mass and meet with Father Borowiak or other committee members to ensure social distancing and maintain safety during the pandemic?

Church leadership will continue to stream Mass and parishioners will be able to meet with Father and campaign volunteers via virtual platforms, video calls, phone calls and at a safe distance if in-person meetings are desired.