



HOUSE OF GOD GATE OF HEAVEN

Capital Campaign for
St. Mary Magdalen Parish & School

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

January 2017

Project Details

1. What is the current master plan?

The current master plan has been organized into three phases:

Phase 1a (Completed): Converting 6 of the school classrooms into 8 classrooms, and the upper parking lot improvements

Phase 1b (Current): Converting the sport court into a gymnasium and performing arts center and rebuilding the current church

Phase 2 (Future): Constructing a parish hall

Phase 3 (Future): Addition to the north end of the school building for additional classrooms

This current phase of the Capital Campaign will fund the rebuilding of the church and conversion of the sport court into a gymnasium/future performing arts center with the goal of ensuring we are as debt-free as possible.

2. Why is the church renovation and gymnasium project necessary?

Our 1960's era facilities are unable to support existing demands: many Masses are standing room only and our children must go off campus for sport practices and games. Our parish population has grown tremendously and is projected to grow another 18% by 2024. Our current facilities will not be able to accommodate this growth.

This project will bring people together in worship, performing arts, and celebration of the precious gifts that God has bestowed upon us. Activities in the gymnasium such as athletics, drama, and cultural celebrations will promote unity and create a profound sense of belonging.

A larger and updated church will welcome and serve all who desire to come face to face with Christ our Lord and will reflect our faith outward toward the community we live in. Conversion of the sport court into a gymnasium will occur first to allow accommodation of our growing parish life and to meet the needs of our community during rebuilding of the church, our Gate of Heaven.

3. How much do we need to raise to fund this phase of the Master Plan?

The overall project will cost \$5.3 million, and \$2.7 million has been pledged and designated for the church. Based on a detailed good faith estimate, we need to raise an additional \$2.6 million dollars in pledges to complete the conversion of the sport court into a gymnasium (\$1.6 million) along with expansion and beautification of the church (an additional \$1 million needed).

4. Why can't we build the church as soon as we have the funds? Why the gym first?

We will need a place to hold Mass while the church is being renovated. By keeping Mass on campus, the hardship on parishioners is minimized and the community is not dispersed.

5. Why can't we build the gym as soon as we have the funds? Why do we have to wait on church funds?

In fairness to the church and school as one community, we want to respect both needs. We promised from the beginning of this plan that it would be approached and treated as one project.

6. When will the work begin and how long with the project take?

Construction will begin once we have adequate pledges in place. Our goal is to build the gym and church without taking on long-term debt. The gymnasium will be built first, with an estimated completion timeline of nine months. The work on the church will then commence immediately following completion of the gym and is estimated to take nine to twelve months to complete.

Impact on Ministry

7. Will my child's education suffer with the construction and workers on campus?

No, in fact our school staff is going to make every effort to turn this project into a fun and educational experience for the children.

8. What are the plans to ensure safety on campus during construction?

Detailed plans will be shared prior to construction, but be assured construction areas will be fenced off and a safety plan will be in place well in advance.

9. Where will outdoor recess be held during construction of the gym?

Plans will be confirmed prior to construction but the upper and lower fields, as well as blocked off parking lots are under consideration as alternatives.

10. Where will Sunday and Holy Day Masses be held during expansion of the church?

These Masses will be held in the gymnasium. There will be space available to function as a temporary sacristy and a set up and take down plan will be in place.

11. Will there be parking available for persons with disabilities close to the gymnasium?

Yes. Exact location will be determined following construction of the gymnasium.

12. Where will daily Mass and school Mass be held during expansion of the church?

Daily Mass will be held in the John Paul II room (double portable). It has a small ramp up the back entry in addition to steps in front. School Masses will be held in the gymnasium. Mass will be a priority until the church is rebuilt.

13. Where will funerals and weddings be held during construction?

Parishioners will have the option of holding these services in the new gymnasium or at St. John's Church.

14. Will the gym be able to be used for some school and parish activities even while used for weekend and school Masses?

Yes. We anticipate making good use of the gym during non-Mass times.

15. Who will schedule use of the gymnasium and performing arts center?

Use of the gymnasium and performing arts center will be scheduled through our parish office as are all other campus rooms.

Funding Details

16. How will the project be funded?

Capital campaign funds, corporate matching funds (can only be used for the gymnasium and performing arts center), grants (gym and performing arts center and church).

17. What happens if we do not reach our pledge goal?

Campaign and parish leadership will reevaluate and reach out to parishioners to discuss modification of the scope of the project and/or investigate alternative methods of funding.

18. Will there be full reporting of campaign receipts and expenditures?

Yes. St. Mary Magdalen Parish will issue an annual financial report. Campaign updates will be provided to the parish on a monthly basis.

19. What is the current financial standing of SMM School? SMM parish?

Please see the Parish Stewardship Report at: www.smmparish.org or pick up a copy of this report in the church vestibules or school and parish offices.

Giving

20. I participated in the first Capital Campaign. Where is the money that I donated?

Some of the funds from the first phase of the campaign were used for the planned school renovations and upper parking lot upgrade. The remaining funds (\$2.7M) are committed to the church remodel.

21. Will this project and any resulting growth affect our staffing needs and operational costs?

No changes in staff are anticipated. There may be opportunity for volunteer support. There will be an additional cost of upkeep of the larger church and of the gymnasium and performing arts center with different flooring and subsequent maintenance. We anticipate revenue producing events will help defray maintenance costs.

22. Can I put my money toward just one of the buildings?

While we are not campaigning for one building or the other, should you desire to do so, you may request that your money be earmarked for one of the building projects. However, neither project will commence until funds are raised to cover both buildings. To ensure accurate accounting of incoming funds, there are separate accounts and records for the church and gym/performing arts center.

23. Will people be able to donate a specific item, such as a scoreboard for the gym or window for the church?

We are not fundraising for these items initially as we must focus on raising the funds needed to construct the buildings. We will consider publishing a menu of items later on in the campaign.

24. Is the amount I pledge to the capital campaign in addition to ordinary giving?

Yes. The first and foremost financial gift we make to the parish is for our annual operating budget through our Stewardship of Treasure pledge drive each fall. If you are able to make a financial gift to the campaign, we ask that it be over and above your ordinary giving. We are not asking an equal amount of giving from each family, but we are asking for equal sacrifice based upon your capacity to give.

25. Are there plans to ask people individually for donations?

Yes. Parish and school families as well as potential donors in the community will be invited to an individual or small group meeting. Personal, face-to-face contact remains the single best way to inform families about the project components and ask for their support. It emphasizes the personal nature of giving, allows for a thorough presentation of the campaign case, gives potential donors the opportunity to ask questions and allows campaign volunteers to express their own enthusiasm.

26. Who will be asked to support the campaign?

Every Catholic household at St. Mary Magdalen Parish and School along with families and individuals outside the church interested in assisting the St. Mary Magdalen community realize its dream for a new gymnasium and performing arts center and larger, updated church.

27. Is it okay if I just extend my current pledge another three to five years?

Yes, just indicate how many years you would like to extend your existing capital campaign pledge.

28. How will individual financial commitments be collected?

a. Can I set up my own payment schedule?

Yes, you are welcome to begin your pledge payments as soon as you would like, using a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or annual options. We would be happy to work with you to set up a schedule that is more appropriate for you and your situation.

b. Do I have to make an initial payment?

Initial payments when a pledge is made are appreciated but not required. We ask that donors consider making payments as soon as possible. As pledges are collected, money will begin to be allocated to the gym and church fund.

c. How do I send my payments?

You may choose an automatic payment schedule with a credit card or pre-authorized debit card. You may also use the campaign envelopes for mailing your payment or dropping in the Sunday collection basket.

A postage paid campaign envelope will arrive quarterly with your statement. Campaign envelopes are also included in the monthly church envelope mailing. For your convenience, you may choose a monthly, quarterly, semi-monthly, or annual schedule. For accounting purposes and to ensure that your pledge payments are appropriately acknowledged and receipted, donors are encouraged to indicate "SMM Capital Campaign" on the check. You will also be able to make payments through the parish website at www.smmparish.org.

29. Are gifts to this campaign tax deductible?

Yes. As a 501(c)3 Organization, gifts to House of God, Gate of Heaven are tax deductible, to the fullest extent allowed by law. Contact your tax advisor for more information. If you choose to donate from your outside IRA, please contact the parish office.

30. How will I know if my pledge to this campaign will go directly to the House of God, Gate of Heaven building effort?

Father Olson, the SMM Parish Finance Council and the Campaign Executive Committee have gone to great lengths to ensure that the funds raised will be used exclusively for the House of God, Gate of Heaven projects.

31. Beyond a cash gift, what can I do to help?

Prayer is a most vital contribution to support the project. Diocesan regulations in regards to gifts in kind are being investigated. Volunteer opportunities will be numerous and a call for help will be announced as needs arise.

32. Is my contribution confidential?

Unless otherwise specified, donors will be identified but the amount of individual donations will not.

Additional information

33. How will the SMM community be kept informed of the campaign's progress?

The SMM community is continuously updated through the parish webpage: www.smmparish.org, the school webpage: www.stmarym.org, the school newsletter, the parish bulletins and parish and school social media accounts.

34. How do I get my questions answered?

You may email the Capital Campaign Executive Committee with your questions regarding the master plan and capital campaign at HouseofGod@smmparish.org. Any questions in regards to parish finances and payments should be directed to the parish administrator at 425-353-1211.

We also would appreciate that you email any suggestions for potential foundations, grant resources and donors that would be interested in supporting our project. We may be reached at:

HouseofGod@smmparish.org

Capital Campaign Executive Committee Members

Jim and Carla Phillips (co-chairs), Father Olson, Anthony Ohl, Vickie Kozuck, Marcia Neill

For updated information in regard to our House of God, Gate of Heaven Capital Campaign,
or to make payments to the campaign,

at www.smmparish.org

click on *Parish Life*, then click on *Rebuilding Our Church*