

BUILDING FOR MISSION CAMPAIGN

Together, We Make a Difference.

CAMPAIGN GOAL: $24,000,000

"Let Joe do it!" Imagine what our world would be like if Jesus had said this familiar adage to the Father.

Throughout our lives, we are presented with opportunities to make a difference. Yet, we sometimes hesitate to meet the challenge and hope someone else will. The Building for Mission campaign is one of these occasions to have an impact—to change lives. The truth is, changing lives takes sacrifice.

The Building for Mission campaign is raising funds to address our important space needs. Meeting these needs will allow our parish community to better serve parishioners and visitors and bring everyone closer to Christ. To achieve this, we need your support. Your personal participation is key to the success of this endeavor. Nationwide, campaigns like ours see 30 to 35 percent average participation rates. It is our hope that St. Gertrude Parish will far surpass that, as **we are not an average parish!**

In the coming weeks, we will hold several campaign gatherings in parishioners' homes and at the parish. It is our sincere hope that everyone will attend one of these gatherings, prayerfully discern your level of support, and make your best sacrifice for the Building for Mission campaign. Reaching—God willing, exceeding—our goal will make it possible for us to enhance our facilities and support and reenergize our parish community.

Charity begins at home. For Catholics, our parishes are our spiritual homes. It is here where we encounter Christ through the Eucharist and in his Word and the sacraments, thanks to the faithful who came before us who built and preserved our sacred spaces with faith and sacrifice. Now it is our turn to share our blessings in our spiritual home and have a profound impact on not only everyone here now but also future generations. Let's not wait for Joe to do it; together, we can make a difference and share Christ's love.

Parish Gatherings: November 19, November 24, December 3 | More details to come!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why is the parish conducting this campaign?
We are very grateful that our parish is flourishing, yet our parish facilities have not kept pace with our tremendous growth. We desperately lack meeting and gathering space, forcing our 60-plus ministries to compete for four meeting rooms. In addition, our parish and school staffs have grown so much that our offices do not have enough space for everyone. This campaign also includes creating a narthex connecting the church and Parish Center, which will serve as a natural post-Mass gathering space that is not weather dependent; updating the church building, and constructing a true convent for the Dominican Sisters.

Will the $24,000,000 address all these issues?
Yes. The priority projects outlined in the case statement are estimated to cost $24 million, which takes into account current costs and anticipated inflation until the time of building. If the costs come in as proposed, any funds raised over the goal will be reserved for construction of the new St. Gertrude School gym. Should we be blessed to raise $31 million, the school gym will be our next project.

Will the parish incur any debt due to these projects?
No, we have no intention of taking out loans or going into debt during these building projects. We are very aware that the previous parish debt was a burden that hung over the parish for many years. We will be sure to avoid this happening again.

How will the campaign affect our weekly offertory?
Experience shows that in most parish capital campaigns, weekly offertory remains steady. What a campaign asks is for everyone to maintain regularly offertory giving and provide an extraordinary campaign pledge over a limited three- to five-year period to meet the challenge of these critical projects. Generations before us made sacrifices to provide the resources to build and upkeep our parish. Now it is our turn to not only make these projects a reality but also maintain normal levels of support to sustain the day-to-day operations of our parish and its many ministry efforts.

How will the funds be used?
The funds raised in any capital campaign can only be used for the stated case. We will use 100 percent of the funds raised to complete the priority projects outlined in the case statement.

How will I be asked to participate?
Every St. Gertrude Parish household will be invited to attend either a home gathering or a gathering at the church between October and early December 2026. If you cannot attend a gathering, we will then conduct a Witness Weekend in January 2027 and a Participation Weekend two weeks later so that everyone will have ample time to pray and reflect on their gifts.

Who is being asked to participate?
Every registered St. Gertrude Parish family and all who regularly join us will be asked to prayerfully consider a gift to the campaign. We are a large parish, but it is extremely important that we receive a high rate of participation to reach our goal. This is a significant goal and cannot be achieved without broad and generous parish support.

Is my gift confidential?
Yes, the packet you receive will be personal to you and your family and will not be shared with any other member of the parish community. There will be no parishioner-to-parishioner solicitation; your gift is entirely between you and the Lord. Only a limited number of parish staff who will be responsible for recording your gift will have access to the information, and it will remain confidential.

How much should I give?
Each household will be asked to give a gift within range, not a specific amount. You will be asked to prayerfully consider your contribution and make a Decision of Faith—giving out of gratitude for the gifts God has given us, out of joy rather than obligation, and out of love as Christ showed his selfless love for all of us.

How long is the pledge period, and how will I be reminded about my pledge payments?
Pledges can be made over a one-, three-, or five-year period. We encourage everyone to use our safe and secure online giving platform, OnlineGiving. The pledge card you will receive includes a link and a QR code to OnlineGiving, which will allow you to pay your pledge in the manner and specific period you wish. Pledge payments will automatically be withdrawn from the account of your choosing based on your selected frequency (you may modify your selections at any time) and directly go to the campaign account, which is separate from our regular operating account. Making payments through OnlineGiving will save the parish the time and the expense of having to send paper reminders; however, if you would prefer a paper reminder, please contact Hope Ramundo, director of stewardship, at hramundo@stgertrude.org.