



ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI
CATHOLIC CHURCH

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

Nixa, Missouri



OUR PARISH

Established in 2004, the St. Francis of Assisi parish embraced the idea of becoming a “total stewardship” parish. Giving our time, talent, and treasure is a concept rooted in scripture. We recognize that we are not owners of our lives but rather are stewards or managers. In managing the gifts God has given us, we spread the Kingdom of God on earth, helping others to know Him.

This parish is proud to embrace St. Francis of Assisi as our patron saint. He preached that God “lives in your nearest neighbor, in every man.” In the prayer of St. Francis, we are challenged to improve the lives of those we encounter:

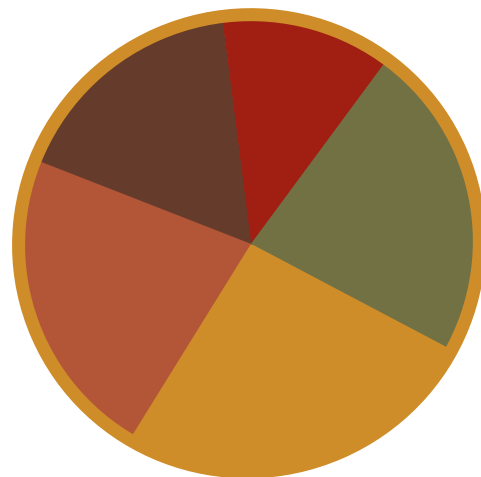
“Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; And where there is sadness, joy.”

Increase in households over the past year:
209 families to 257 = 23%

Households:
Single – 86
Couples – 77
Families – 94
Total: 257 families

Parish by Age

- 0-12 (93)
- 3-19 (65)
- 20-49 (123)
- 50-69 (140)
- 70+ (121)



*“The youth of our diocese are not the future of the Church; they have potential to build up the Church **now**. It is our responsibility to give them solid formation to root them in the faith and the tools to evangelize others.”*

— Most Reverend Edward M. Rice;
Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau



Faith Formation Building Activities & Events

- Bible studies
- RCIA classes
- Small group formation
- Youth events
- Vacation Bible School
- Day retreats
- Knights of Columbus meetings
- Cursillo meetings
- Diocesan groups
- Community support meetings



OUR COMMUNITY

During our 19-year history, we have continued to grow in faith and love and most notably in the number of parish members. While our facilities have served us well, the dynamic needs of a growing parish require us to take the next step in the development of our parish campus.

While our faithful and dedicated catechists have worked hard to assist families in passing on the beauty and richness of our faith to the next generation, it has been a struggle without the existence of basic classrooms. We have utilized nearly every corner of the O’Reilly Room for classroom space over the years and regularly use the St. Clare Chapel and our main worship space for classes for youth and adults. On at least one occasion, we converted the parish office into a small classroom. Prayer in the chapel and building community relationships in the O’Reilly Room are regularly cut short to provide for the educational needs of our parish.

OUR VISION

Our response to this challenge was to develop a Building Committee, who began the task of providing a better learning environment for faith formation programs. After countless discussions and meetings with building contractors and our former architects, a faith formation building was designed that would serve our parish for many years to come.

This new multipurpose facility will provide classrooms for our Parish School of Religion (PSR) at our current enrollment level and allows for growth. Additionally, it will provide daily office space for our Director of Religious Education and allow our supporting staff, including Coordinator of Religious Education and Youth Minister, to have workspace and provide much needed storage areas that we don't currently have. Usage throughout the week would include hosting community support groups, RCIA classes, small group formation, and bible studies along with monthly and bi-monthly meetings of regional Knights of Columbus, Cursillo meetings, and a number of other community or diocesan groups. The new building will allow the parish to offer a summer Vacation Bible School and other youth events that require multiple meeting spaces and open up new opportunities for our parish to host day retreats and eliminate scheduling conflicts that we sometimes encounter. This gives us the opportunity to realize dreams of serving our community in new ways, such as a food pantry, rummage sales, etc.

As a vibrant, growing parish, our demographics have become diverse and so have our individual needs and desires. The need for classrooms is evident and has been expressed by many. The desire to take the next step in developing a new worship space has also been overwhelmingly expressed. For many, it has been a long-held dream to praise God as a parish family in a space that is not only filled with the spiritual beauty of the Eucharist, but also expresses a visual beauty that is befitting of God's house. The Church is more than a building; it is a community of individuals and families committed to the Gospel call of discipleship. The central components of this project meet both desires, supporting us in working together as a parish family.

Over the years we have strived to make enhancements in our sanctuary such as adding the back wall and placing the altar, presider's chair, and ambo on one level. The Tabernacle was moved to a prominent position behind the altar, a beautiful crucifix was hung, and the reconciliation room added in the back of church.



The mission of St. Francis of Assisi Parish is to be a welcoming community formed around the Eucharist and open to the workings of the Holy Spirit. We are called to be a people of prayer, serving our faith through the principle of Christian stewardship.

Our size, demographics, and the current economy make a new, free-standing, church building beyond our financial capability. We do, however, believe our hearts' desires can be realized within our existing church structure. By reorienting a new sanctuary, acquiring new pews, redesigning the ceiling, and making other enhancements we can achieve our desire for a more fitting worship environment. We will reduce or eliminate the unappealing visual impacts, such as the heating and cooling duct work, so that our focus when entering the church will be drawn to the altar as we gather to give glory to God through our praise and worship.

By modifying the new faith formation building floor plan, converting the chapel to office space, and reducing the overall square footage, it would allow for enhancements to our worship space and cost approximately \$2.2 million. Through the generosity and foresight of many parishioners, we already have approximately \$500,000 toward that cost. Therefore, we are seeking to raise a minimum of \$1.7 million for our capital campaign.

Our growth is a blessing and driven by the Holy Spirit. As with many expanding parishes, this leads to challenges that face our parish community. St. Francis of Assisi has never been a parish to turn away from challenges or ignore the needs of our parishioners. We have always risen to the occasion in a spirit of faith and resolve and will do so once again.

We have adopted the theme that our diocese used in the 2016-2018 capital campaign because it captures the spirit of this endeavor: ***Grateful for our Past...Preparing for our Future.***

We celebrate and give God thanks for the past growth and success of our parish. We will continue offering our prayers, hospitality, and formation opportunities, and give service and minister to one another and to our community better than ever. And we will do what is necessary to place our parish in a position for an even brighter future.

Let us join together, imploring the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the intercession of St. Francis and St. Clare, as we discern our ability to raise the necessary funds that are needed to move our parish into the future as one family of faith, hope, and charity.



OUR PROJECTS



- Faith Formation Multipurpose Building \$ 1.62 million
- Sanctuary Renovation \$.52 million
- Courtyard/Entrance Updates \$91,000
- Total Project Cost \$2.2 million



Questions & Answers

Why wasn't the initial "campus" design of building a new sanctuary followed?

The building committee gave careful consideration to building a new sanctuary and renovating the existing space for meeting rooms, offices, and storage. The cost of a new church that would seat 400 to 500 parishioners would likely fall in the range of \$8 to \$10 million. That does not include the costs of renovating existing space.

Although a new church is not feasible at this time, the faith formation building is an essential necessity. We have simply outgrown our current community room, classrooms, and office spaces. We have nearly 100 children and youth registered for our Parish School of Religion (PSR) and youth programs for 2023-24. Most importantly, the need for an improved educational environment is imperative to better serve the formation of our youth in the Catholic faith.

We believe this project, which combines a beautiful new worship space with a versatile multipurpose building will meet the parish's needs for many years to come. If we are so blessed in the future to grow both with parishioners and financially, there is ample room to the north of our existing campus (parking lot area) to build a new church and create new parking areas.

Why didn't we build onto the current building as originally planned?

An initial plan to expand to the south was determined not feasible when it was discovered that the relocation of key utilities (water, electrical, etc.) would create an unnecessary financial burden on the project. This plan allows an interior connection with the existing structure which was not possible with the original plan of placing an education building northeast of our worship space.

Will there be a new Chapel?

In order to keep costs down, we believe that renovating the current chapel to office space is financially prudent. Everything that we do liturgically can be done in our main worship space, including weekday Mass, adoration, and rosary services. Many churches throughout our Diocese do not have chapels.

Will the faith formation building only be used on the weekends?

Although, the new multipurpose facility houses classrooms for Parish School of Religion (PSR) on Sundays, there will be ample activity throughout the week and varying times in the day and evening. Utilization throughout the week covers a wide range of parish and community activities and events. Additionally, it will provide daily office space for staff as well as workspace.

Why is the faith formation building so big?

Originally, a floor plan was created that was approximately 5,600 square feet to meet the needs researched and developed by the building committee. However, the initial cost estimate was determined to be too high, so the committee challenged the architects to come up with a smaller building that still met the basic needs of our parish. We believe that the revised floor plan (approximately 4,400 sq ft) is affordable and will serve the parish well into the future.



What will happen to the Building Fund?

We are thankful to those parishioners who donated to the Building Fund over the past several years. In order to meet the diocesan guidelines of 100% pledges and 50% cash on hand, we will temporarily suspend donations to the Building Fund. The current Building Fund will be used as part of the 50% that must be on hand, according to diocesan guidelines, before starting a major construction project.

Why are we having personal visits for the fundraising strategy?

Personal visits emphasize the distinctive nature of giving, allow for a thorough presentation of the need, give you the opportunity to ask your own questions, and allow visitors to express their enthusiasm for the project. In addition, personal visits place a greater emphasis on stewardship, allowing campaign volunteers to share their faith experience and trust in God.

Why am I asked to consider a specific amount?

Parishioners need to know what levels of support are necessary to raise \$1.7 million. A gift amount is suggested for you to prayerfully consider because as Christian people we have an opportunity to return to the Lord according to the measure His Goodness has been bestowed upon us. No judgment is made on the level of gift you offer. *The important thing is that your gift be prayerfully discerned, proportionate to your means, and reflect a spirit of sacrifice in thanksgiving to God.*

What if I choose not to give the amount requested?

We know matters of giving are subject to priorities and your situation is unique unto itself. However, you are asked to prayerfully consider a specific gift. Whatever your response, it should be one of your choosing made in a spirit of sacrifice, and all gifts will be beneficial to the work of spreading the Gospel.

If St. Francis of Assisi has approximately 260 registered households and the goal is \$1.7 million, why don't we ask each household to donate the same amount?

Why are some people asked for a greater amount? Successful campaigns do not achieve their goals through mathematical calculation. In our parish, like most, 80% of parish support comes from 20% of the parish.

A goal of \$1.7 million cannot be reached without several substantial pledges and others at lesser levels. Some parishioners are blessed with ample resources, and others are not. The important thing is that your gift be prayerfully discerned, proportionate to your means, and reflect a spirit of sacrifice in thanksgiving to God.

I dislike pledging. Why am I asked to make a pledge instead of a one-time gift?

You can make a one-time gift. However, the success of the campaign rests largely on pledges that are payable over five years. In addition, by making a pledge, you are able to donate more than would be otherwise possible in a one-time gift.

I would like to pledge, but our budget is especially tight this year. How can I still participate?

The campaign pledge period is structured over five years, and you can determine when you want to start payment of your pledge.

Will my gift remain confidential?

Yes! The only people who will have knowledge of pledge information is the volunteer and the campaign staff. These individuals have been instructed to keep all donor information confidential.

"Our founding members did great things for St. Francis of Assisi Parish. Now it's our turn."

— Fr. Shoby Chettiyath

SUGGESTED GIFT PLANS

As a member of the parish, your support of our building campaign is significant. We invite you to consider a sacrificial pledge to our ***Grateful for our Past...Preparing for our Future*** campaign. Although we welcome gifts at levels and periods of time not listed below, we kindly request that you prayerfully consider letting this be your guide in determining your level of support.

Total Pledge	Initial Payment	Annual Payment	Semi-Annual Payment	Quarterly Payment	Monthly Payment
\$ 175,000	\$17,500	\$31,500	\$15,750	\$ 7,875	\$ 2,625
\$100,000	\$10,000	\$18,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 1,500
\$ 75,000	\$ 7,500	\$13,500	\$ 6,750	\$ 3,375	\$ 1,125
\$ 50,000	\$ 5,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 4,500	\$ 2,250	\$ 750
\$ 35,000	\$ 3,500	\$ 6,300	\$ 3,150	\$ 1,575	\$ 525
\$ 25,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 2,250	\$ 1,125	\$ 375
\$ 15,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,700	\$ 1,350	\$ 675	\$ 225
\$ 10,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,800	\$ 900	\$ 450	\$ 150
\$ 5,000	\$ 500	\$ 900	\$ 450	\$ 225	\$ 75
\$ 4,200	\$ 420	\$ 756	\$ 378	\$ 189	\$ 63
\$ 3,600	\$ 360	\$ 648	\$ 324	\$ 162	\$ 54
\$ 2,500	\$ 250	\$ 450	\$ 225	\$ 113	\$ 38

Through our baptism, we have been called to be workers with Christ in His community. Everything we have is a gift from God. It is only right that our gratitude for His generosity should be reflected in the gifts we give back to Him. The gospel story of the widow's mite is a wonderful example of sacrifice. ***Grateful for our Past...Preparing for our Future*** seeks gifts of equal sacrifice, not equal amounts.

The parish deeply appreciates every gift and sincerely thanks all parishioners for their generosity. We invite all donors to make an initial payment of 10% at the time of their pledge. Please make all checks payable to St. Francis of Assisi.

All gifts are tax deductible and may be remitted monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually.

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”
— 1 Peter 4:10



CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Generous and loving God,
You are always at work in our lives,
Building us up as one community,
Under the protection of St. Francis of Assisi.

Lord, our trust in you has empowered us to
Open our hearts to your divine plan,
To live our faith and to build our community.

Your call to live a spirit of stewardship in our parish
Has allowed us to see that what we offer with gratitude
Is truly blessed and multiplied abundantly.

Mindful of the many gifts you bestow upon us, we pray for your guidance.
May we embrace every opportunity to share our blessings and
Grow as a community of people that is more deeply in love with you,
With our families and neighbors, and with our Church.
Amen

Grateful for our Past...Preparing for our Future

Campaign Leadership Team

PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR
Very Reverend Shoby M. Chettiyath V.G.

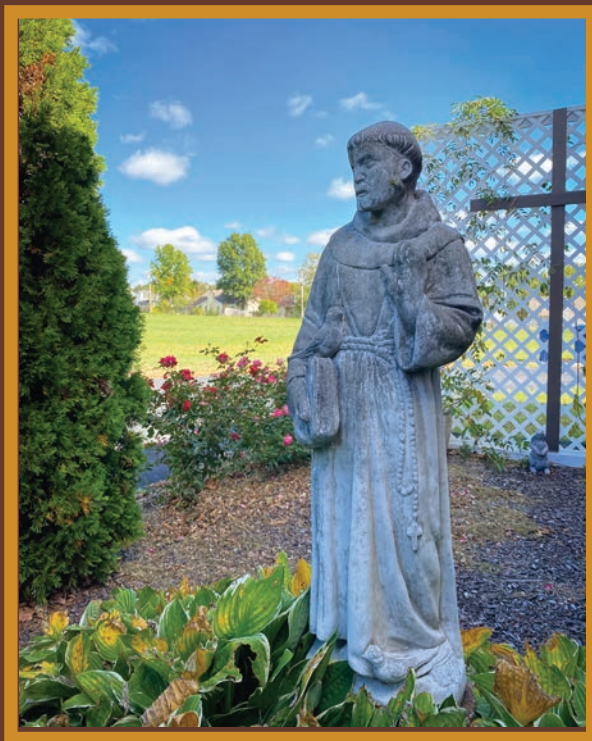
CAMPAIGN CHAIRPERSON
Brian Bingle

CAMPAIGN ADMINISTRATOR
Deacon Gary Steffes

CAMPAIGN SECRETARY
Abbey Fuentes

LEADERSHIP TEAM
Carrie Bellm
Julie Clarke
Darrell Hinkebein
Melinda Johnmeyer
Danny Marra
Sarah Noble
Marc Rohr
Joe Schmitz





*“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love.”*



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