



Growing Into the Future
Together

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

2023



ST. MICHAEL

P A R I S H

Schererville, Indiana



CAMPAIGN PRAYER

Loving God, giver of every good thing,
you have blessed us abundantly.
The spiritual gift of Hope, borne to us in our baptism
and renewed in us by the Holy Eucharist
grows in us, leading us to know
the many blessings of our past, our present and our future.

The hope and faith of those
who set this parish into motion in 1874,
to be a beacon of your love in this community,
gives us courage to carry forth
that good work into the future.
They had sown the seeds of the harvest we have enjoyed.

It is by the wisdom of the Holy Spirit
that we come to know
that you call us, in each age,
to respond to the needs of our time.

We humbly ask you to send your Spirit
upon our parish community during this crucial time
as we embark upon a campaign to build upon
the foundation laid by our forebears in faith.

O Spirit of God, enable us to offer
our prayers, joys, works and treasures to you.
Help us to participate in Christ's sacrifice
by our own sacrifices we make to achieve a higher good;
as we sow the seeds of the harvest
that our children and grandchildren will enjoy.

Just as Mary, the Immaculate Virgin, teaches us
to open our hearts and minds to your Will
so, may she smile upon our endeavor;
and may our gifts manifest our gratitude and glorify you.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever. Amen.

LETTER FROM FR. MARTY

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Over the past several years much has been accomplished through your generosity. Our recent Report of Our Stewardship demonstrates this so well. In addition, your support for special campaigns have allowed your parish to grow and thrive.

In two years, we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of our parish. Such an occasion is a time to look back with joy and gratitude towards previous generations of parishioners who faithfully stewarded the parish for us to enjoy today. It is also an occasion to look forward, towards the future of our parish in the 21st century. It is for this reason that we ask you to support our campaign Growing Into the Future Together. The GIFT of this parish will not cease in 2024. In order for us to further ensure the viability of our parish into the future, we need to act now on two essential projects.

First and foremost, it is necessary for us to turn our attention to improving the air quality in our school building to be in line with new standards set in the past year. Much preparation work was done for this in 2008 with all new thermal pane windows being installed along with a new state of the art boiler. In addition, new stone fascia was fitted to replace the crumbling façade as well as new durable flooring on the second floor. What remains is to finish the work begun at that time. The new boiler is designed to work in tandem with a new advanced HVAC system that will also air-condition the school building and allow for better air exchange.

This is the **first** and **prime** goal of this campaign.

Secondarily, the building we use as a parish office has outrun its efficiency some time ago. The parish office is more than a purely administrative center, it is also the place from which the Good Samaritans do their wonderful work for the less fortunate. It is the place where parishioners come for assistance both material and spiritual. It is a place that is foreboding to anyone who has a handicap from age or otherwise. Even if you make it to the first floor, many older parishioners cannot make it to the second floor to meet with the Parish Financial Officer, Bulletin Editor or our Director of Music and Liturgy. The many retired people who work the food pantry, which is scattered throughout the basement, wherever there is room, must convey the bags of groceries up the stairs to the side door. Hardly ideal or easy for these Good Samaritans.

This is the **second goal** of the campaign. This second goal will challenge us to stretch ourselves. But, in reaching this challenge goal we will set our parish on a new era of stability for this 21st century.

I realize from my own participation in the past campaigns, which have accomplished so much good, that it is still never easy to “step off the pier,” as it were, to commit my time and treasure to a future goal, no matter how important. It stretches my trust and my willingness to let go and, let God. So, I do not embark on this work lightly, but I do so with the belief that the work ahead will be worth it, and that God provides.

I invite you to join in this endeavor, to exercise your faith and trust. You have been successful in the past, and so God will bless you with greater trust to be successful in the future. We have a gift given and you and I need to grow into the future together to be people of the GIFT, to secure a bright future for generations to come.

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Martin Dobrzynski





EST. 1874

For nearly 150 years, the St. Michael story has been defined by the intentional building and cultivating of community.

In 1873, German Catholic pioneers petitioned Bishop Dwenger to establish a parish in the town of Schererville, Indiana. On September 29, 1874, the feast day of St. Michael, our first church was blessed, and our parish of eighty families was established. Those eighty families that came before us used their faith in Christ to build a community that lasted far beyond them. With the support of the parishioners, St. Michael School was established in 1900, and the parish grew significantly over the next one hundred years. By the time St. Michael celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1974, the parish had grown to include 734 families, and St. Michael School's enrollment had approximately 400 students. Nearly fifty years later, St. Michael is now home to over 2000 families, 220 students, and 315 Faith Formation students.

At St. Michael, we pride ourselves on the community we have inherited from previous generations of parishioners. We are fortunate to have several ministries, many of which support the local Schererville community, programs for parishioners to grow in faith, and a beautiful campus to experience Christ's light. We are grateful for our parish community and that St. Michael remains a faith-filled, family-centered, and educationally enriched parish. St. Michael aims to be a place of love and light for all those who encounter our community and space.

As we approach our 150th anniversary, we are committed to following in the footsteps of the generations of parishioners before us, who built and cultivated our parish so future generations of parishioners could experience God's grace. After many months of prayerful reflection, the St. Michael Catholic community is embarking on a \$3.5-5.0 million campaign to ensure that St. Michael continues to be a community for parishioners for the next 150 years.



GROWING OUR FUTURE TODAY.



Our Vision

We seek to secure the stability of our parish under God's grace by investing in our school and parish office infrastructure to serve parishioners for generations to come.

RENOVATION OF ST. MICHAEL SCHOOL HVAC SYSTEM (\$2.0 MILLION)



St. Michael's has been fortunate enough to be blessed with an abundance of space, allowing us to open our doors to anyone wishing to seek company under Christ. St. Michael School is a crucial part of our parish community, offering among the finest preschool-8th grade Catholic education in Northwest Indiana. St. Michael School supports its students' educational, spiritual, and social needs, and we are committed to creating a safe and welcoming environment for our children to grow. As we think ahead to the role of St. Michael's in raising the next generation of parishioners, we look to today's parishioners to support us in our campaign to replace St. Michael School's HVAC system.

An updated HVAC system would protect the health and safety of our community's children and be a critical investment in St. Michael School for succeeding generations. Providing air-conditioning would ensure a school environment that is in line with recent amendments to the Clean Air Act, and that St. Michael School's children receive proper air ventilation during instruction. After several attempts to build and replace the HVAC system, the time to act is now.

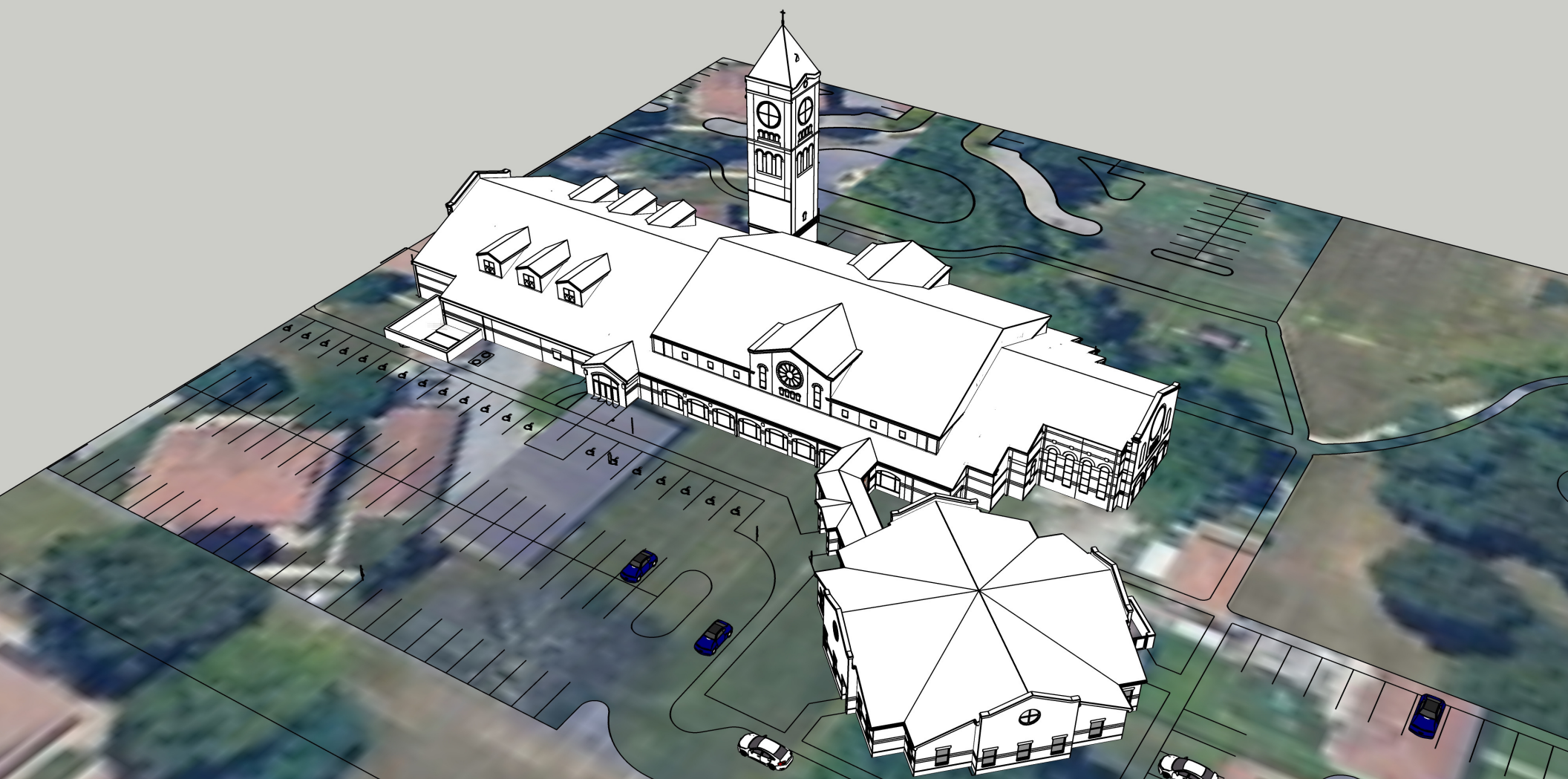


IMPACTING CURRENT & FUTURE GENERATIONS TO COME!



BUILDING ST. MICHAEL PARISH OFFICE

(\$3.0 MILLION)



St. Michael's parish office is a vital space for planning the faith-based needs of the church. Home to both the pastor's office and all our ministries, our office is the organizational and ministerial center for our work in Schererville's Catholic community. The parish office provides the organizational infrastructure for the communication, finance management, and information technology required to run the parish and its many ministries. As we look ahead, it is vital that we ensure that the parish office can effectively support the needs of the parish in the decades to come. We are requesting support to build a new parish office for the 21st century.

The current parish office is over 100 years old and has served the parish in multiple capacities over the past century. It has undergone several additions and renovations over the past century, but the building was not built to sustain a modern office serving a parish of over 2000 families and 47 ministries. Heating and cooling the existing building are costly and inefficient, and the office is nearly overloaded from modern electronics it was not designed to handle.

Additionally, the age of the building makes accessibility a concern. Multiple flights of stairs into the building and between office floors make the building inaccessible and dangerous for parishioners with disabilities and parishioners who have difficulty walking or climbing stairs. Because the parish office lacks wheelchair ramps and an elevator, the office is currently not compliant with federal ADA standards.

A new energy-efficient parish office would better facilitate the critical work of our pastor and the many support staff and volunteers who serve the parish, allowing the organizational center of the parish to serve the St. Michael's community of the 21st century. In addition, it would provide accessibility to all visitors and parishioners regardless of ability, and would serve the parish for generations to come.



Images of the Good Samaritan food pantry in the basement of the parish office.





WHY NOW?

St. Michael's is looking to invest in the future. We are blessed enough to have a generous, engaged community surrounding us, but we cannot guarantee what the future holds. Just as the parishioners before us built and stewarded community, securing the longevity of the parish, we must think of the future today. The future of our parish depends on our willingness to make sacrifices today.

CAMPAIGN HISTORY

For the past 20 years, St. Michael the Archangel has embarked on three faithful capital campaigns to stabilize the church's infrastructure and ensure that St. Michael's remains a spiritual home for parishioners today and parishioners tomorrow. Thanks to the immense generosity of parishioners, past campaigns were able to accomplish the following:

The Cross Leads Generations On (2005-2006)/ Building Faith, Families, and Future (2008-2012)

- Built out the south side of the church building, making St. Patrick Hall possible
- Dedicated St. Patrick Hall
- New windows, new boiler, new flooring on the 2nd floor, and electrical system upgrades for St. Michael School

Our Lasting Legacy (2014-2020)

- Rebuilt roof structure of the church
- Renovated roofing system with metal roofing system
- Replaced inadequate EIFS with upper-level stonework
- Replaced faulty flashing on all windows in the church
- Installed insulation throughout the church building
- Renovated drainage
- Replastered interior walls and replaced drywall after cracking and water damage
- Painted the entire interior of the church

The church remains a space for parishioner to experience God's grace because of the support of parishioners over the past two decades. For St. Michael to continue to serve its community, we are embarking on another ambitious campaign.

WAYS TO GIVE

The *Growing Into the Future Together* Campaign is a critical initiative for St. Michael the Archangel which will modernize its facilities for the 21st century. Large or small, each sacrificial donation makes a real difference for our parish. Below, you can learn about the various ways in which you can make a pledge over the next five years.

Electronic Funds Transfer

You can choose to give through an automatic bank withdrawal, credit card or debt card. This is the easiest and most cost-effective way to give.

Checks

You can choose to give with checks payable to St. Michael Parish over the course of your pledge.

Stocks, Mutual Funds, and Securities

You can choose to give through stocks, mutual funds, and securities. Please contact the parish office for more information.

IRA Distribution

Parishioners required to take annual minimum required distributions can decide to donate their distribution to the *GIFT* campaign and not have to pay income tax on this donation.