



STEWARDSHIP for
**SAINTS &
SCHOLARS**

The campaign for Catholic education
in the Diocese of Lansing



**ST. MARY STUDENT PARISH
COMBINED CAPITAL CAMPAIGN**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



During the recently completed campaign planning study, participants asked a range of questions relating to the parish, the proposed projects and the overall campaign. To provide clarity, we created a list of frequently asked questions and answers. These FAQs are also posted on our website, available at <https://michigancatholics.org/capitalcampaigndonate/>. This document provides key information regarding our projects, goals and the campaign process.

As we continue, we are committed to sharing more about the campaign and project details during the upcoming weeks and months. In the meantime, please pray for our campaign leaders and for St. Mary Student Parish as this effort brings great hope for current and future parishioners.



What is a combined capital campaign?

Every parish in the Diocese of Lansing will be participating in the *Stewardship for Saints and Scholars* (S3) capital campaign. By fundraising for our local initiatives as part of this campaign, St. Mary Student Parish will not only help support Catholic education throughout the area, but it will capitalize on the increased visibility and momentum generated by a larger-scale effort. Running a combined campaign can also help increase overall donor support that will help strengthen both St. Mary Student Parish and the wider Catholic community.

What will the S3 campaign help fund?

The *Stewardship for Saints and Scholars* (S3) campaign focuses on 4 areas:

- **On Mission (35%).** Attract, train and retain faithful teachers and administrators at Catholic schools.
- **Affordable (30%).** Build financial aid & tuition assistance to reduce cost barriers to Catholic education.
- **Accessible (15%).** Expand services to children with special needs within the Catholic school system.
- **Local Initiatives (20%).** Invest in local parish-sponsored initiatives and other urgent, local needs.



What is the S3 target for St. Mary Student Parish?

The *Stewardship for Saints and Scholars* (S3) target was set based on a calculation from the average of the parish's most recent three fiscal years of annual giving. Here is how it breaks down:

- Total S3 goal for St. Mary Parish: \$1,355,000
- Amount returned to St. Mary for local initiatives (20%): \$271,000.
- Once St. Mary reaches the total S3 goal, **100% of donations** will stay with St. Mary.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE COMBINED CAMPAIGN?

Our combined campaign has an overall goal of **\$4.25 million** to invest in campus ministry, address deferred maintenance, enhance our church and upgrade our facilities. Beyond our goal for the S3 campaign itself, here are the details of the local goals that we have identified for St. Mary Student Parish:

FACILITIES PROJECTS | \$1,755,838

A Facilities Condition Assessment completed in 2022 revealed the urgent need to replace the roof of the Newman center, along with addressing safety-related repairs such as stairway handrails, handguards, and concrete walkways and stairs in the next two years. Other critical updates brought to light by the Assessment include upgrading the HVAC and electrical systems, flooring, and doors, enhancing the interior church lighting and installing a new sound system. We also aim to revitalize five of our meeting and study rooms and make the Newman Center eco-friendlier. Additionally, we plan to convert one room into a Blessed Sacrament Chapel for small prayer group meetings. Donnelly Hall will be enhanced with a moveable wall to provide flexible room configurations.

CAMPUS MINISTRY | \$990,483

To support and sustain our current growth in our campus ministry, our goal is to increase our current endowment funds in order to provide an additional \$55,000 per year to mirror the growth of the ministry and support these crucial initiatives.

RESIDENT PARISHIONER FUND | \$271,000

The 20% rebate from the S3 campaign will be used to address the needs of our parishioners. We plan to allocate these funds to enhance our ability to support community outreach, including food and diaper drives, a daytime warming center, overnight shelters, and crisis support for migrant families.

CHURCH ENHANCEMENTS | \$148,679

The proposed improvements to the church include enlarging the sanctuary, centralizing the tabernacle, adding a new altar, installing two intercultural Marian walls, and repairing the apse wall and arch.



Is this the best timing for a fundraising campaign?

Based on the higher-than-normal planning study participation and the high percent of those reporting they would support the campaign (83% of respondents indicated that they would make a personal gift to the campaign), The Steier Group and leadership believe that this is an opportune time and are fully confident that St. Mary will achieve its fundraising goal. In addition, all parishes in the Diocese will run the S3 campaign and so a combined campaign is the only opportunity for our parish to tackle these local projects until the five-year pledge period ends in 2029. We simply cannot wait any longer to address these deferred maintenance projects and invest in our future.

What is the pledge period and where do my donations go?

Pledge payments will be made to *Stewardship for Saints and Scholars* over a five-year pledge period.

- Funds will be received, held and distributed by the Catholic Foundation.
- The Catholic Foundation will manage pledge redemption, including acknowledgment letters.
- No campaign funds will be used to support diocesan offices or programs.



How will donated funds be dispersed to St. Mary?

As soon as pledge payments start to be received by the Catholic Foundation, St. Mary will receive quarterly payments.

- During the period while the S3 target is being raised (\$1.355 million), the parish will receive quarterly payments of 20% of any funds collected during the previous quarter.
- Once the initial \$1.355 million has been received for the campaign, 100% of all subsequent pledge payments will be distributed to St. Mary via quarterly payments.

How will this campaign affect my current offertory?

The Combined Campaign will be an extraordinary effort and seek gifts beyond the regular weekly, monthly or annual offertory. Because the expenses related to the day-to-day operations of the church and Newman Center will continue, parishioners are not asked to diminish giving to the parish but, rather, to consider a commitment above their normal offertory. In the long term, similar campaigns have caused increases in parish offertory by raising the sights of parishioners and their commitment to the church.

How long will the Jesuit leadership presence remain at St. Mary?

The Diocese of Lansing has officially entrusted pastoral care of St. Mary Student Parish to the Jesuits from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2029, via signed agreement dated May 31, 2024. This renewed agreement reflects an affirmation by the Diocese of the importance of the Jesuit presence at St. Mary Student Parish.