

Sacred Heart

Faith in Action: Campaign to build a new church

Background and History

For more than 140 years, our parish has been a cornerstone of Elk Rapids by creating a sacred space to serve the faithful of our beautiful village. While we as a church community have gone through many changes over the years, our founding parishioners would be proud of the legacy that they started. Their vision to build a Catholic church in Elk Rapids was challenging. Yet through their tenacity, their vision became a reality.



It's easy to take for granted the sacrifices of our forebearers. Imagine how the early parishioners felt in 1883 as they set out on the daunting task of building the first Catholic church in Elk Rapids. Yet, they forged ahead, circulating petitions, borrowing enough money to lay the foundation, and then raising funds to build their faith home. That was only the beginning. The faith community multiplied, and in less than a decade after the first church was constructed, the parish started a plan to sell the original church property to build a larger facility to meet the needs of their growing community. A bigger property was found, and the faithful worked again to build a new church facility.

When construction was completed for the second building --the one we currently have--our church was lovingly branded as "a credit to the society that erected it." Now more than a century later, it's time once again to build and grow.

The Need

While our parish takes pride in being both welcoming and accessible, our current facilities are neither.

- Our **restrooms** are not in the same building as the nave, isolating our parishioners who cannot make the walk outside and around the building, at times through ice and snow, to get to the bathrooms. We have heard from some of our older parishioners that they are not comfortable navigating the physical space and are thus unable to attend mass.
- Our **music ministry** physically excludes many parishioners, as our choir space is at the top of steep, rickety stairs.
- Our church is difficult for those with disabilities to navigate and limits attendance.
- Our **place of worship** is too small to accommodate our summertime and year-round faith family during our most popular mass celebrations. We also know that because of the limited number of priests, the diocese believes we may need to share a pastor with a neighboring parish in the future. Sharing priests means fewer mass times. Fewer mass times mean that we need room for our entire parish family to celebrate together. We have heard from summer families that the lack of space at Sacred Heart is a barrier to Sunday attendance.
- Our current church doesn't have a **narthex** large enough for wedding and funeral attendees to assemble before services.
- Our **roof, foundation, and windows** all need significant repair.

- Our sacred space is **disconnected from the parish hall**, creating barriers to enjoying community activities after Mass for those with physical limitations.

The approach and vision

Developing a vision and plan: To address the current needs, the parish formed a Worship Space Committee in 2017. Over five years, they held several town hall meetings and met with parish families to gather insights and ideas. The parish community reflected, deliberated, and prayed. The committee negotiated with contractors and realtors, worked with an architect, and met with the diocese to develop the best solutions and developed a plan and budget.

As Catholics, the sacred place we celebrate Mass is very special. A church must be inspiring; it needs to be a holy place to pray, worship, and devote time to adore the Lord. As the parish has contemplated a new church, members have shared their thoughts about what transforms a physical place into a sacred space. As a result, the new church will

- Include elements of Sacred Heart’s current design.
- Include stained glass, statues, and awe-inspiring artwork.
- Feel welcoming to everyone, including vacationers.
- Be accessible to all parishioners, including those with physical limitations.
- Have natural lighting and surroundings that reflect the beauty of northern Michigan.

Our local parishioners are engaged in this very holy work as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops state in the 2000 USCCB guidelines, *Built of Living Stones: Art, Architecture, and Worship* (BLS)

“In every church building, art and architecture become the joint work of the Holy Spirit and the local community, in preparing a place to receive God’s Word and to enter more fully into communion with him.”

Together, we have created Sacred Heart’s vision for the new church facility to ***build a sanctified faith home that glorifies God and inspires all who come to worship.*** We envision a church that brings people of all ages together to honor the glory of God, and we look forward to the hope of growing our parish family. The newly designed proposed church addresses all the current needs and anticipates future growth.

The Plan:

How the new church will fit on the property:

The new church will be located further back on the street than where it is currently. The building will connect directly to the social hall.



External features:

- Exterior style similar to the existing church.
- Welcoming entrance off of Buckley Street.
- Belltower upfront and copula over the altar in the rear to allow for a flood of natural lighting.
- A beautiful stained-glass window is featured at the Charles Street entrance.



Internal space highlights:

- Seating for 370, up from the current 180.
- Additional seating is available in the narthex to accommodate an additional 53 people.
- Main floor choir section with seating for 23.
- Adoration chapel with seating up to 10.
- Bathrooms are located at the church's main entrance and the south exit.
- Reconciliation room near the altar.
- Prep rooms for altar servers and the priest.
- Church at ground level and fully accessible to those with mobility issues.
- The new building will provide a narthex space in the back of the church so that people preparing for funerals or weddings can assemble.



- The new church will be attached to the social hall where the community room is currently located.

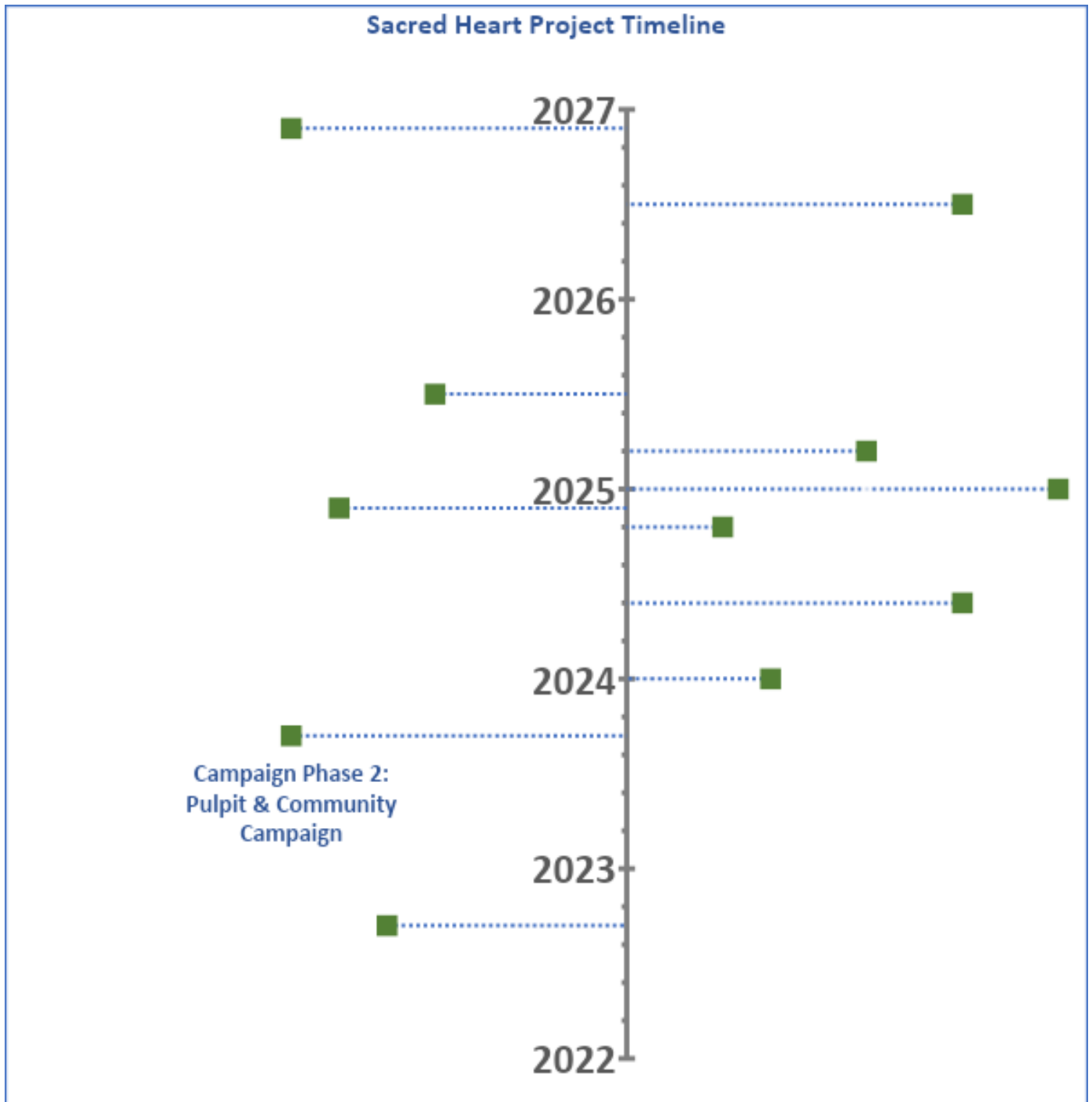
The cost:

The estimated cost for the project is \$4.54 million.

Architect/Design Development	\$260,000
Site Prep/Work	\$ 660,000
Construction	\$3,220,000
Furnishings & Artwork	\$350,000
Landscaping	\$50,000
Total Vision	\$4,540,000

These numbers were updated as of February 2022 and included estimated costs of all parts identified in the vision. It is assumed that construction wouldn't begin until 2024. Estimates reflect building cost inflation of 5 percent.

The timeline:



How to make our dream a reality

As millions of faithful have done for thousands of years and as our founding parish families have done, we come to you as part of our parish family to support this important project. We have the opportunity to attract people to worship, grow the parish, and inspire future generations as we continue to build on the proud history of our parish. It will take prayer, sacrifice, and a dedication of time, talent, and treasure from **each of us according to their ability.**

Church campaign gift table: As we anticipate how to raise the needed funds for the project, it is valuable to look at the successful strategies of other church campaigns. One essential campaign tool is a gift table, and below is the plan developed for Sacred Heart:

Sacred Heart Parish - 2022-2025		
Total Goal: \$4.54 million		
Gifts Needed	Gift Level	Total Needed
1	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
2	\$500,000	\$1,000,000
3	\$250,000	\$750,000
4	\$100,000	\$400,000
10	\$50,000	\$500,000
16	\$25,000	\$400,000
20	\$10,000	\$200,000
22	\$5,000	\$110,000
45	\$1,000	\$45,000
	\$1-\$999	\$135,000
129	TOTAL	\$4,540,000

We ask you to prayerfully consider how God calls you to join others at Sacred Heart parish in this holy work.