

Sacred Heart Faith in Action: Campaign to build a new church

Background and History

The Sacred Heart of Jesus symbolizes God's boundless love for humankind. This love is felt by many who are part of our Sacred Heart parish community, which began over 140 years ago. Early parishioners faced the daunting task of building the first Catholic Church in Elk Rapids. We can imagine our founding mothers and fathers were guided by the same love that inspired the name of their faith home. Circulating petitions, borrowing money, and raising the funds needed to build their parish were difficult tasks. Yet, they forged ahead.



That was only the beginning.

The early community of parishioners multiplied. The love cultivated in their faith home poured out. Less than a decade after construction was complete, parishioners began planning to build a larger church to meet the needs of their growing community. A property was found – where we currently reside as a parish -- and the faithful once again rolled up their sleeves to build a second church facility.

Many things have changed in the over one hundred years since our founding members built our Sacred Heart Catholic Parish, yet the outpouring of love shown by our parish remains the same. Our community has once again multiplied. With that growth comes new needs for our faith home.

Sacred Heart of Elk Rapids has grown to serve 350 families, which more than doubles in the summer. Parishioners are active in dozens of ministries, which invite fellow parishioners and the community to learn, pray, discuss, and work together to spread God's love.

Sacred Heart's parishioner spirit is strong, and the people need a church facility to support our continued growth. We need a church building that is conducive to the physical needs of its parishioners so that the faithful can focus on their spiritual nourishment – to hear the word of God, pray, receive sacraments, and celebrate the Eucharist together as a community.

The parish formed a Worship Space Committee in 2017 to identify and address specific needs. Over five years, they held several town hall meetings and met with parishioners to gather insights and ideas. Summarized below are the needs we have expressed as a parish.

The Need

While the people of our parish are known for 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 walk outside and around the building, sometimes through ice and snow, to get to the bathrooms.
- Our church is **difficult for those with physical limitations** to navigate and limits attendance. The aisles are narrow, the narthex is small, and the bathrooms difficult to get to. Our music ministry is not accessible. We have heard from some of our older parishioners that they are not comfortable navigating physical space and are not attending Mass.

- Our **place of worship is too small** to accommodate our summertime and year-round faith family during our most popular Mass celebrations. Because of the limited number of priests, we share our pastor with a neighboring parish. 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, especially for those with physical limitations.

The approach and vision

Over the past several years the parish community reflected, deliberated, and prayed. The committee, as a direct response to the concerns you as a parish raised, negotiated with contractors and realtors, worked with an architect, and met with the diocese to develop the best solutions. They created a plan and budget.

As the parish has contemplated a new church, many members shared their thoughts about what transforms a physical place into a sacred space. The consensus was that, as Catholics, the sacred place where we celebrate Mass is very special. A church must be beautiful and inspiring; it must be a holy place to pray, worship, and devote time to adore the Lord. After carefully listening to the ideas and desires you as a parish have expressed, our new church will:

- Include elements of Sacred Heart's current design to preserve the heart of our parish.
- Include beautiful stained glass, statues, and awe-inspiring artwork.
- Feel welcoming to *everyone* who comes to our church.
- Be accessible to all everyone, including those with physical limitations.
- Have natural lighting and surroundings that reflect the beauty of northern Michigan.

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.

Our local parishioners are engaged in this very holy work as the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops states 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."

The Plan:

How the new church will fit on the property:



The new church will be located further back on the street from 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 Buckley Street.
- A bell tower and features that draw people into the church.
- The church is designed in the shape of a crucifix, which is known as cruciform.



Internal space highlights:

- Seating for 370, up from the current 180.
- Additional seating available in the narthex to accommodate an additional 53 people.
- Roomy, accessible space for a choir.
- Adoration chapel.
- Bathrooms are at the church's main entrance and the south exit.



- Reconciliation room near the altar.
- Church entrances are 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.



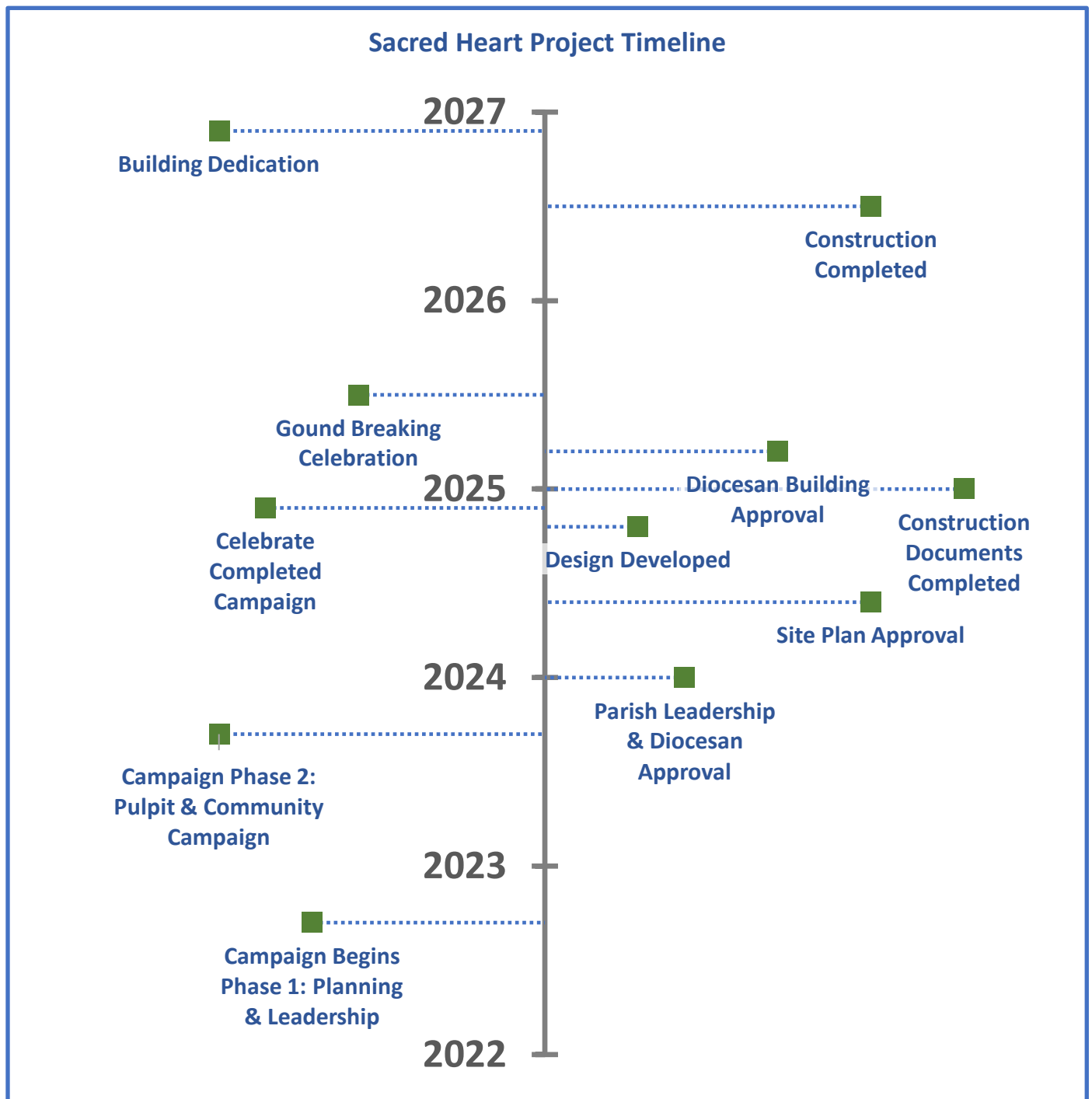
The cost:

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 won't begin until 2025. 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, 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 our 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.