



Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we having this campaign?

Because of the challenging times that Covid has presented, we have not been able to gather as a community in our typical ways. We have not been able to have many of our fundraising activities. These unique circumstances have impacted donations to sustain our church and school. With declining membership and Mass attendance and decreased weekly collections, we can no longer pay for capital improvements from our regular donations. We need to make some repairs to our church, school and parking lot that will require significant funding.

We have not conducted a major campaign since 2008, and in order to be good stewards of our parish buildings and grounds, we must conduct this *Forward in Faith* Campaign to raise the funds for the much-needed repairs. Funds from this campaign will also help provide new computers for the teachers and update technology to help facilitate remote learning, which is more important than ever. The campaign will also provide for some Covid-related expenses as well as operational expenses for salaries and health insurance for faculty and staff.

How much money do we need? \$350,000

When will work begin on the projects and what is the time frame for completing the projects?

The projects will begin as funding becomes available with the campaign. We anticipate completing the projects by the end of 2021.

Will competitive bids be obtained for all projects and who will oversee these projects?

Yes. The Diocese has strict guidelines which we follow that require us to get multiple bids for projects and submit them to the Diocese for review. The parish's business manager will oversee the projects.

How much of the funds raised in the campaign will go to the diocese?

None. 100% of the money raised will stay in the parish and be used for the projects outlined in the campaign brochure. These funds are not subject to the diocesan tax.

How is our school doing?

Our school continues to be one of the top Catholic schools in the Belleville Diocese. We currently have 92 families with annual tuition around \$4,400 per student. To help our school families during the pandemic, we did not increase tuition for the 2020-2021 school year. Historically, fundraisers have provided a portion of the tuition while the parish subsidized the rest. Because of the pandemic, the number and types of fundraisers are uncertain. Our school needs parish support more than ever. We're asking all parishioners, corporate donors, alumni and school families to help pave the way so that our school families can afford an Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic education for their children.

What does the future hold for our parish?

At the present time, we don't know if Bishop McGovern will choose to consolidate the parishes. While that could occur in the future, we still need to maintain the value of our buildings and grounds today. We cannot wait a year or two or three. WE MUST ACT NOW! It is crucial that we position Our Lady Queen of Peace as a strong, vibrant faith community and viable parish!

I donate money to the weekly Mass offertory and to the school's Annual Fund Campaign. Should I donate to the *Forward in Faith* Campaign in addition to this?

Yes. Your weekly donation, as well as your gift to the school's Annual Fund, support the day-to-day operations of our parish facilities, ministries, liturgies and school. Your pledge/ donation to this campaign will ensure that we complete the needed capital improvements for the parish and school and that operational expenses are met.

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What kind of gifts are you seeking?

We are asking for financial gifts paid over two years, gifts of prayer, time and talent. Gifts to campaigns of this kind are typically larger, sacrificial gifts rather than weekly contributions. Gifts of stock, life insurance, charitable gift annuities or other planned gifts are also welcomed.

How will the campaign work?

The *Forward in Faith* Campaign will begin with visits and calls to select families in the parish in October and November. Fr. Matthew will mail a letter to all parish and school families asking them to consider a contribution for payment over two years. The campaign brochure, a letter of intent, this document and a reply envelope will be included. A two-week period will be set aside for parishioners to complete and mail their letter of intent, drop it in the collection basket or complete online.

Can I participate without committing to a two-year pledge?

Yes. Although the campaign is designed for a two-year term, we encourage everyone to participate in whatever capacity best fits their personal situation. With 100% participation, we can achieve our goal.

What if I cannot afford to give?

Jesus gave us a guideline... "Share from your substance, not from your surplus." But, only you can decide what this means for you. Look into your heart and prayerfully consider what you might share for your parish's needs. If you are unable to give at this time, we ask for your prayers for the success of the campaign and the future of our church and school.

Why do I need to fill out a letter of intent?

Pledging to our campaign helps us anticipate what funds we will receive and plan accordingly for the campaign. All pledges help us achieve our goal. In addition, the letter of intent assures that your gift is properly credited to your parish record.

What if circumstances change, and I cannot honor my pledge?

Although your pledge is not a legal commitment, we hope you will be able to honor it. However, we know that unexpected life changes occur - deaths, loss of job, relocation, retirement, etc. If you need to change your pledge, we understand and will honor your request.

How and when do I turn in the letter of intent for my pledge?

Fill out the letter of intent in your packet; you may mail it to the parish office, drop it into the collection basket, turn it in at school or complete it online. We ask that all pledges be turned in by Thanksgiving 2020.

When do payments begin?

You can make your first payment immediately if you so wish. Otherwise, all payments will begin in January of 2021.

What methods of payment do you accept?

We accept cash, checks, credit card and electronic funds transfer. Please keep in mind that if you would like to fulfill your pledge using electronic funds transfer, consider using the printed letter of intent instead of doing so online. This will save the parish processing fees as the parish office can run it manually for free.

Where can I get more information about the campaign?

Updates at Mass, the weekly bulletin and our parish web site (www.bellevillecatholic.com) will have additional information to keep you up-to-date on the progress of our campaign. Also, feel free to contact any campaign committee member.

Can I volunteer to help?

YES! If you would like to help with the campaign, please contact anyone on the campaign committee below.

Who is on the campaign committee?

The Reverend Matthew J. Elie
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**Our Lady Queen of Peace,
Pray for Us!**