

Elevating Our Worship, Restoring Our Home

At St. Bartholomew, we are united by our faith and the call to be living examples of Christ's love. For decades, our church has been a sanctuary for worship, community, and spiritual growth. As we look to the future, we embark on a journey to elevate our worship experience and restore the spaces that foster our parish's sense of home and belonging.

A Vision Rooted in Faith

Our church and rectory serve as cornerstones of our faith community. Together, they enable us to fulfill our mission to spread the Good News and provide a sacred space for encountering Christ. To ensure that we continue to inspire and support generations to come, we must address the pressing needs of our worship space and the absence of a rectory.

Elevating Worship with a Renewed Sanctuary

Built in 1959, our church has been a beacon of hope for Catholics in Newaygo County. Over the years, it has weathered time, faithfully serving as our spiritual home. However, the sanctuary now requires thoughtful updates to reflect the timeless beauty of our faith. By enhancing its architecture, improving its sound system, and updating pews and kneelers, we aim to create a space that inspires reverence, strengthens our liturgy, and ensures accessibility for all.

Restoring Our Home with a New Rectory

The rectory is more than a residence—it is a home that sustains our pastor's ministry and provides hospitality to visiting clergy, seminarians, and retired priests. Without an on-site rectory since the sale of our previous home on M-82, this vital resource has been missing from our parish life. A new rectory will restore this essential element, supporting our pastor's spiritual leadership and enhancing our community's connection to clergy.

Our Plan for Restoration and Growth

To elevate our worship and restore our home, we are undertaking two key projects:

- **Sanctuary Enhancements:**
 - A new altar and ambo for a renewed focal point of worship.
 - A sacristy in the former music area to provide a sacred space for preparation.
 - A relocated music loft to enrich our liturgical experience.
 - Updated pews and kneelers for comfort and reverence.
 - A modern sound system to improve accessibility and engagement.
 - Security upgrades to protect our sacred space.
- **A New Rectory:**
 - A welcoming home for our pastor to focus on his ministry.
 - Space to host seminarians and retired priests, fostering community and collaboration.
 - A residence that helps provide a suitable home for our pastor

Investing in Our Future Together

The estimated total cost for these projects is \$1.9 million with \$730,000 allocated toward the new rectory and the \$1.2 balance toward the church improvements. Funding will come from reserves (\$100,000), and funds generated by the sale of the previous rectory (\$300,000), and a proposed \$1.5 million capital campaign launching in the spring or summer. As we begin a parish-wide feasibility study in February, your input will play a vital role in shaping the path forward.

A Sacred Call to Action

Restoring our parish home and elevating our worship is about more than buildings; it is about strengthening the heart of our faith community. Together, we can ensure that St. Bartholomew remains a place where God's love is celebrated, shared, and lived out for generations.

We invite you to join us in this mission to create a legacy of faith, beauty, and community. With your prayers, support, and feedback, we can bring this vision to life—elevating our worship and restoring the spaces we call home.

"Beauty brings joy to the human heart... and is an invitation to savor life and to dream of the future."

—St. Pope John Paul II, *Letter to Artists*, 1999

"Everything related to the Eucharist should be marked by beauty. Special respect and care must also be given to the vestments, the furnishings and the sacred vessels, so that by their harmonious and orderly arrangement they will foster awe for the mystery of God, manifest the unity of the faith and strengthen devotion." Pope Benedict XVI's "Sacramentum Caritatis"



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