



St. Bartholomew's Project FAQ

General Questions

Q: Why is St. Bartholomew initiating this campaign now?

The parish had originally planned to build an onsite rectory after selling the old one. However, the onset of COVID and a change in pastoral leadership delayed these plans. Now that we have a permanent pastor, it is the right time to move forward with constructing the new rectory. Additionally, since we need a capital campaign to fund the rectory, we decided to include a church renovation and beautification project. This approach allows us to address both needs simultaneously rather than conducting separate campaigns a few years apart.

Q: How were these projects prioritized and decided upon?

A capital campaign committee was established to evaluate potential projects. The committee recommended engaging a professional company to conduct a feasibility study, which is currently underway. This study will help ensure that the selected projects align with the parish's needs and resources.

Q: How will the new rectory and church renovations enhance our parish's mission and community service?

The new rectory will provide our pastor with a residence on church grounds, significantly enhancing his ability to minister to our parish community. Being onsite will also make him more accessible for spiritual guidance, pastoral care, and community involvement. The church renovations will build upon our already welcoming and inspiring environment, enhancing the worship experience for all. Improvements such as new pews, stained glass windows, and a modern sound system will help create an even more engaging and uplifting space. The additional sacristy and updated altar will further support our liturgical functions, allowing us to continue serving our parish and community with renewed vigor and purpose.

Q: What are the timelines for the rectory construction and church renovations?

We hope to start the rectory construction in 2025 and then the church renovations in 2026.



Q: How will the construction impact regular church activities and services?

We will strive to minimize any disruptions to our regular offerings and services. However, there may be a period when we need to hold Mass in the social hall while the church renovations are underway.

Financial Questions

Q: What specific projects will the \$1.5 million fund?

The campaign will fund the construction of a new rectory on the church grounds. It will also support a comprehensive remodeling of the church sanctuary, which includes installing new pews, stained glass windows, a modern sound system, an additional sacristy, and a new altar and ambo. Other necessary renovations will also be undertaken to enhance the overall liturgical experience.

Q: What happens if we don't reach the \$1.5 million goal?

Certain projects will not be able to be completed. The feasibility study will help us prioritize projects.

Q: Will parish funds cover any of the construction costs?

The parish has \$300,000 from the sale of the former rectory, which will be used for constructing the new rectory. Additionally, \$100,000 from parish savings will be allocated to support the projects.

Q: How often does the church conduct capital campaigns?

It has been close to 15 years since our last capital campaign. Our previous campaign was to install a new metal roof, an addition to the Narthex and remodel the kitchen in the parish center. We have never had a campaign to renovate the church proper.

Q: What measures are in place to ensure the projects stay within budget and on schedule?

The diocese requires that all work be put out for bid and approves all contractors involved. With its extensive experience overseeing the construction of new rectories and church renovations, the diocese will help ensure that the budget and project timelines are carefully managed. Regular oversight and communication with the contractors will ensure the project stays on track.



Q: Why is the church employing a fundraising consultant for this campaign?

The committee believes that a professional firm should run the campaign. The Breton Group managed our last capital campaign, and the parish was well served by its expertise and experience. Given their successful track record, we have chosen to work with them again for this campaign.

Q: Can we get a breakdown of the individual cost of each item?

We are still in the design phase of the church renovation, which means we're carefully planning out the details of what will be included. Because we haven't gone out to bid yet, we don't have the exact cost breakdown for each item. While we have an overall project estimate, the specifics could change once we finalize the design and receive contractor bids. We'll be happy to provide more precise details once we move further along in the process.

Q: Can our parish afford a \$1.5 million project?

Determining how much a Catholic parish can afford for a capital campaign involves assessing several key financial factors. A commonly used guideline suggests that a church can aim to raise between 2 and 4 times its annual unrestricted giving over a three-year capital campaign. Based on these figures, \$1.5 million is well within the parish's possibilities.

Q: Are there any grants available?

Foundation grants are not typically available for houses of worship or churches. However, leadership will continue to be open to finding foundations that might make an exception for St. Bartholomew.

Rectory Questions

Q: Why was the old rectory sold?

Bishop Walkowiak prefers that pastors have their rectories on-site to serve the parish community better. The former rectory, located on M-82, was offsite, requiring the church to maintain additional property. The decision to sell the old rectory was made to build a new rectory on the church grounds, closer to the parish and its ministries.

Q: What happens to the rectory in White Cloud?

That would be up to the St. Joseph parish community.



Q: Why does the rectory have three bedrooms when we only have one priest?

The diocese requires that all newly built rectories have space for a retired priest and a seminarian. St. Bartholomew's has nowhere to house a retired priest, seminarian, or missionary priest.

Church Renovation Questions

Q: Can we refurbish the pews instead of purchasing new ones?

Our current pews have served our parish well since 1959, but after over 60 years of use and one previous removal, they are showing significant signs of wear, particularly with failing kneelers and structural concerns. If we attempt to remove the pews again to replace the flooring, there is a risk they may not hold up or be able to be securely reinstalled, potentially leading to long-term safety and stability issues. New pews would provide a more durable, comfortable, and functional seating option for future generations, eliminating ongoing repair costs and ensuring our worship space remains welcoming and safe. While we honor the history of these pews, investing in new ones would be a wise and lasting decision for the future of our parish.

Q: The pews and woodwork seem to be darker than current. Will it be too dark in the church?

Please rest assured that the design team carefully considers the balance of wood tones and lighting throughout the renovation. Our goal is to create a warm, welcoming, and bright church environment, not a darker one. The woodwork will be selected or refinished to complement the natural light and artificial lighting upgrades we're planning, ensuring a vibrant and spiritually uplifting space. We want everyone to feel comfortable and inspired in the renewed space; lighting is a key part of that vision.

Q: Will the pews have padded seats?

Due to the cost and ongoing maintenance, we are not planning on padded pews.

Q: Is there any plan for an elevator?

Due to the significant cost and structural considerations, adding an elevator has not been included in our current renovation plan. However, we encourage you to express this suggestion in the parish feasibility survey. The feedback we gather will help us evaluate and prioritize future improvements as we continue working toward making our church as welcoming and accessible as possible for everyone.



Q: If we remove some seating, what will we do if the church grows?

Our Masses are not at full capacity, so we have room to accommodate growth with our existing seating. Our goal is to create a welcoming, functional, and adaptable space to meet our current and future needs.

Q: Will the new choir area be larger than the current one?

The choir area will be able to expand as needed up in the loft.

Q: Will the current diocesan study on parishes affect St. Bartholomew's or St. Joseph's?

Both parishes are stable and vibrant. The assumption is that the study will recommend more collaboration between the parishes.

Q: Will there be pews in the overflow area?

The overflow area is a multi-purpose space that needs to have flexible seating. Therefore, permanent pews would not work in that area.