



Rooted in
Christ
Growing in
Faith

A Note from Fr. Keith

Dear St. Mary Family,

For over a century, St. Mary of the Assumption has been proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ by promoting spiritual enrichment for all Catholics through discipleship, worship, stewardship, and living Christ's love. St. Mary's continues to be an integral part of the Taylor and surrounding communities.

As we move forward with a campaign in 2019, we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the construction of St. Mary's first church in 1894. This special time invites us to remember and give thanks for those parishioners who had the faith to build a vibrant church and later, a renowned school. Because of the faith, vision and generosity of the people who came before us, we enjoy a beautiful campus and the vitality of being a parish of over 600 members.

This campaign calls us to leap forward in faith and lay the strongest foundation we can for this parish now and for the future life and legacy of our historic church. For the last year, members of St. Mary's have been studying how our church campus can best serve the vision and mission of our parish. We have prioritized areas of building preservation and renovation that will better serve our current and future ministries.

I invite you to join me in remaining rooted in Christ for the future. The campaign before us will require work, commitment and sacrifice to realize its goals.

Thank you, for your thoughtful and prayerful support as we grow together in faith.



Rev. Keith Koehl
Pastor



Our Mission

St. Mary's has been blessed with an amazing parish, built on the generosity and sacrifice of past parishioners. Now is our time to prepare it for the next 125 years as we look to a future where new families will come to call St. Mary's home. We are also fulfilling our parish's commitment to the Diocese of Austin's *Encountering Christ* campaign at this time.



Our Vision

Church Facilities

We have been blessed with a beautiful Church that has served us for over 60 years. As our parish and community has grown, our Church facilities are in need of improvement. Specifically, we intend to renovate the Church with new lights, paint, and flooring; refinish ceilings; renovate the sanctuary; restore the pews and stained glass; replace rotted doors; clean the marble altars; and renovate the area behind the altar. Additionally, we would replace the exterior woodwork and windows in the Rectory, add new entry steps and porch area at the Church, complete immediate renovation needs at the Parish Meeting Center, and finally, create an inviting plaza. These improvements will allow our community to continue utilizing this space for the next generation of parishioners.

School Facilities

As the oldest Catholic school in Williamson County, our school has been educating the next generation to live and uphold the Gospel teaching of Jesus Christ for over a century. Similar to our Church facilities, the school, which was built in the 1930s, requires several improvements and renovations. We hope to improve the overall site safety on campus for pedestrians as well as create an energy-efficient gym space by replacing and improving the gym building windows.

Cemetery

Cemetery updates and beautification include entry, fencing, and signage work.

St. Vincent de Paul Facilities

Built in approximately 1920, the St. Vincent de Paul building is one of our oldest facilities. Given its age, the building is in need of numerous repairs. Facility projects include renovations, signage updates, façade updates, and restroom renovations.



Our Future

St. Mary's has been blessed by the legacy of generous parishioners for over a century, who offered their service to the parish. While our *Rooted in Christ, Growing in Faith* campaign will raise much-needed funds to revitalize our parish facilities, we must look to the future as we consider supporting future ministries within St. Mary's. Our hope for St. Mary's is to enhance offertory giving by 10% — a stewardship to the parish that involves proportionate giving of time, talent and financial gifts. Offertory giving is a faithful response to God's provision for each of us and recognition that everything we have comes from Him. We ask that parishioners prayerfully consider increasing their offertory giving to St. Mary's today and beyond the length of our campaign.

Our Goal

Achieving our \$1.75 million goal will enable St. Mary's to reinvest in our parish by:

- Revitalizing our historic church and repairing our Parish Meeting Center
- Renovating and improving the school sidewalks and gym
- Providing beautification updates to our cemetery
- Repairing St. Vincent de Paul's roof to ensure its facilities remain strong in our community

Project	Budget	Description
Church		
Church Interior Revitalization	\$985,000	New Paint, Flooring, Renovation of: Altar, Ceiling, Restrooms, Pews, Sound System; Stained Glass Restoration, Lighting Replacement
Church Exterior Cleaning & Sealing	\$70,000	Clean and Seal Masonry
Rectory Building Envelope Repairs	\$62,000	Replace Exterior Woodwork and Windows
New Entry Plaza to Church	\$200,000	Replace Existing Stoop with Larger Concrete Gathering Area, Landscaping & ADA Accessibility, Renovate Marquee Sign
Parish Meeting Center Repairs	\$45,000	Replace Roof, Water Damage Repairs & ADA Accessibility (work in progress)
Replace Rectory Garage	\$145,000	New Garage and Secure Attachment to Rectory
School		
Pedestrian Friendly Campus	\$60,000	Improve Overall Site Safety on Campus for Pedestrians
Energy Efficiency Project for Gym Bldg.	\$82,000	Replace and Improve Windows, Seal Building Envelope
Cemetery		
Cemetery Updates & Beautification	\$70,000	Entry, Fencing, Signage
St. Vincent de Paul (a ministry of St. Mary's)		
St. Vincent de Paul Facility Updates	\$35,000	Renovate: Signage, Façade, Restroom



The *Encountering Christ* campaign works to fulfill the mission of our diocese as outlined in the Pastoral Plan. Along with every parish in the Diocese, the Diocese has given St. Mary of the Assumption a campaign goal which will be used to invest in our clergy at all stages of their vocation, strengthen our parishes, large and small, and expand our services to our brothers and sisters most in need.

St. Mary's fair-share goal of \$318,500 is a fraction of the overall \$85 million fundraising goal for the diocese. The funds from *Encountering Christ* will be used in three major ways:

1. Investing in our clergy at all stages of their vocation from seminary to retirement through a Seminary Education Endowment and fortifying the Diocesan Priest Pension Fund, ensuring retired priests (including our beloved Rev. Msgr. Lonnie Urban) will be cared for and that young men who are discerning the priesthood (like Seminarian Ladd Spears) will be supported.
2. Strengthening the diocese through supporting parishes – both large and small, in rural areas – in their missions, by creating an endowment to provide additional operational and emergency support.
3. Cultivating emerging disciples through spiritual development and by providing educational and formational opportunities, fortifying parishes to begin or expand leadership development, young adult ministries, and increasing outreach through Catholic Charities.

Strengthened by prayer, this effort will allow us – in a spirit of stewardship and unity – to build a vibrant and secure future for the Diocese of Austin and St. Mary's.

For more information regarding the *Encountering Christ* Campaign,
Visit <http://www.encounteringchristcampaign.org>

A Prayer for our Parish

Ever gracious God, we offer
our gratitude for the blessings
you have bestowed
on our parish of St. Mary's.

As we share in the hope and courage
of the first parishioners in Taylor,
may the Holy Spirit
instill in our hearts and minds
a desire to embrace sacrificial giving
to the parish.

Jesus, move us to generosity,
as we dedicate ourselves
to the work entrusted to us.

We seek the intercession of Mary,
in all of our efforts.

This we ask, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

St. Mary of the Assumption
Catholic Church

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Diocese of Austin