Types of Bequests with Sample Language

A **specific bequest** leaves a set dollar amount to Saint Bede Catholic Church.  
*Example:* “I give, devise, and bequeath the sum of $25,000 to Saint Bede Catholic Church, Williamsburg, Virginia.”

A **percentage bequest** delivers a stated percentage of either the donor’s entire estate or her or his residuary estate to Saint Bede Catholic Church.  *Example:* “I give, devise, and bequeath ten (10) percent of all my estate to Saint Bede Catholic Church, Williamsburg, Virginia.” or “I give, devise, and bequeath twenty-five percent (25%) of all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate after payment of all other bequests to Saint Bede Catholic Church, Williamsburg, Virginia.”

A **residuary bequest** delivers the balance of an estate or a designated percentage of the balance to Saint Bede Catholic Church after all estate administrative costs, taxes, and bequests have been fulfilled.  *Example:* “I give, devise, and bequeath all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate after payment of all other bequests to Saint Bede Catholic Church, Williamsburg, Virginia, after payment of all administrative costs, taxes, and bequests have been made.”

A **contingent bequest** delivers the stated assets to Saint Bede Catholic Church if some event occurs. Generally, Saint Bede Catholic Church can be listed as a contingent beneficiary after the death of a prior beneficiary.  *Example:* “I give to John Doe the sum of $100,000 providing he survives me, and, if not, I give the sum of $100,000 to Saint Bede Catholic Church, Williamsburg, Virginia.” Percentage bequests can also be contingent.