

JUNE 2019 | ISSUE NO. 1

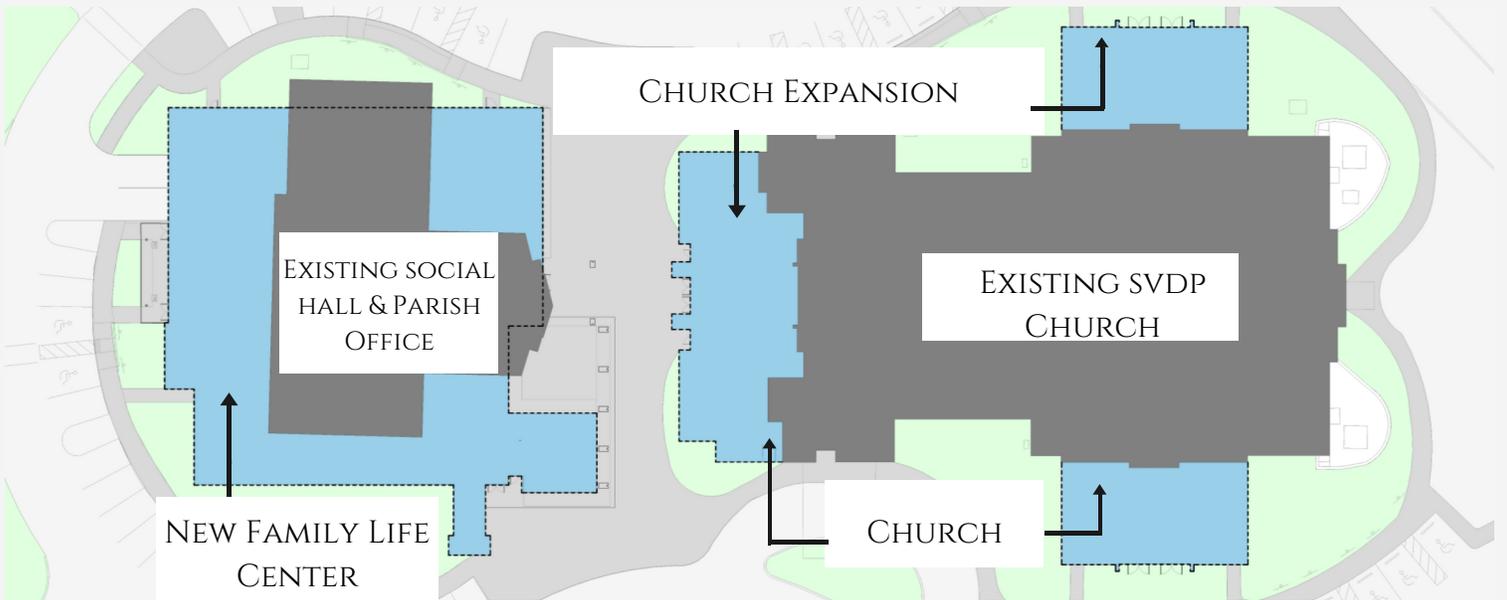
BUILDING THE WAY TO HEAVEN

Parish Updates

OUR CURRENT PROJECT

We want to thank everyone who has generously given to make this all possible.

We have a beautiful journey ahead of us. With God's continual grace and your ongoing support, we will be able to build our way to heaven!



HISTORY OF OUR PARISH

Updates from 2017

In 1968, the Catholic population in Wildwood, FL was growing. By 1973, the continued growth inspired Father William Killian, Pastor of St. Paul Parish in Leesburg, to celebrate Mass in Catholic homes. By 1981, so many Catholic families had come to the area that there was a higher demand for space. As a result, Mass was started at the Page-Theus Funeral home Chapel in Wildwood, FL. This continued for 13 years.

In 1993, the Diocese of Orlando purchased 19 acres of land north of Wildwood. Fundraising began and construction of a mission church building followed. The building had a capacity of 400 and was completed on June 5, 1994. The opening ceremony and Mass were held at the new St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Mission.

In 2002, Fr. Peter Sagorski was assigned as a priest for the Mission Church. In 2004, due to the continued growth, Bishop Thomas Wenski designated this mission as a parish. The surrounding area continued to grow. As a result, the church needed to expand. Due to the generosity of the parishioners through everyday stewardship and a capital campaign, the ability to build a new church went from a dream to a reality.

A survey was conducted of the parishioners to help determine our needs for the future. To fulfill the needs identified, the parish began a new Capital Campaign in 2017, "Building the Way to Heaven". The funds raised were designated for the building of a new Family Life Center, and expansion of the church.

The Family Life Center will include a social hall, a catering kitchen, library, religious gift store, meeting rooms and administrative offices. The church expansion will provide approximately 800 additional seats. In May 2018, the Diocese approved the request to hire an architect. In July 2018, the Diocese approved the project and plans to proceed with the Family Life Center. As of August 2019, the capital campaign has raised pledges of more than 3.7 million dollars. In September 2019, the demolition of the old church building and construction of the Family Life Center is estimated to begin.

On behalf of a grateful parish family, Father Peter would like to thank the parishioners who have contributed and made this possible. It is estimated that the Family Life Center will be completed in November of 2020. The church expansion will begin shortly after the completion of the Family Life Center. We are truly blessed as a community. Our parish continues to grow and all are welcome to join our community.

”

WHATEVER YOU BIND ON EARTH
SHALL BE BOUND IN HEAVEN; AND
WHATEVER YOU LOOSE ON EARTH
SHALL BE LOOSED IN HEAVEN

“



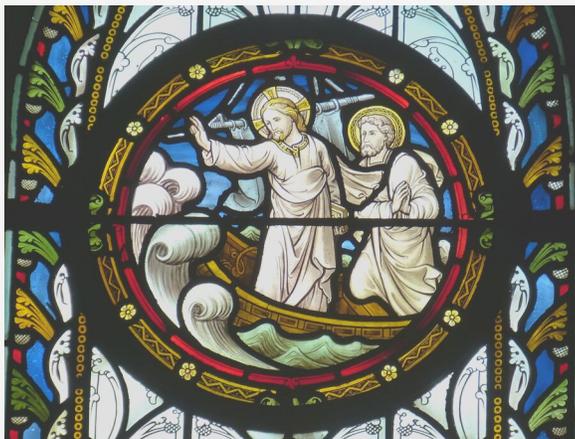
MORE INFORMATION ON THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Always choose to trust in Him.

We are a vibrant, expanding parish that has seen growth in membership, church attendance, religious education attendance, ministries to serve and know God more fully, and outreach programs to help others in our surrounding community. New families continue to join the parish. The church is needed today more than ever to serve as a beacon of God's love for us. It is needed to bring God's love and grace into the lives of the people of Wildwood and The Villages. It is needed to help our senior community, as well as the youth of today and the future leaders of tomorrow, to learn God's word and to appreciate the need for daily bringing God into their lives. Our facilities support everything we do as we strive to fulfill St. Vincent de Paul Parish's mission:



"WE ARE A WELCOMING, LOVING,
GROWING FAMILY CALLED BY
CHRIST TO SHARE, EXPERIENCE,
AND CELEBRATE GOD'S PRESENCE
AND LOVING REDEMPTION."



REASONS FOR A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Question 1: What is the impact of the Capital Campaign on our mission? How will it allow us to accomplish our mission?

Our parish buildings support everything we do at St. Vincent de Paul. They provide a place for our parishioners to come together to pray and be nourished by the Body and Blood of the Lord. They provide space for our parishioners – adults, teens, and children – to deepen their knowledge of Jesus and His Gospel values.

Also, the buildings provide a place for our parishioners to gather and work with each other in the numerous ministries and outreach programs serving the needs of our church community and the local community at large.

During the past five years, St. Vincent de Paul Parish has significantly grown in the number of parishioners and programs. Responses from our 2016 Parish Survey validated that our present buildings have become limited as we respond to this growth, the increase of ministries, and the needs of our parish family. Thus, the parish campus now needs to expand to continue to serve our needs into the future.

Question 2: What will happen to the existing Parish Hall?

The new Family Life Center will be constructed at the same location of the existing Parish Hall. Aspects of the existing building (for example, stained glass windows) will be integrated into the new building to represent our spiritual roots.

We will continue to build up the Body of Christ in this new structure, but more importantly, use our spiritual gifts and celebrate the gift of community.

Our hope is to begin construction of the new Family Life Center and the Church expansion in 2018/2019. This timeline will be dependent upon the success of the capital campaign, working with the architect on detailed plans for both projects, and obtaining the necessary approvals from the diocese and county. The sooner the funds are raised, the sooner the proposed project(s) can start.

STRUCTURE OF THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Question 1: Who have been consulted in making these campaign plans?

We have hired and consulted with professional organizations to survey the current Parish Hall and develop a strategic plan. More professionals will be included once the funds have been raised and we are ready to start construction. Parishioners and Ministry Leaders have also been consulted regarding the campaign as well as the needs of the parish. Feedback from the 2016 Parish Survey was also taken into consideration.

GIVING TO THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Question 1: This is a three-year campaign, correct? I may not live that long. How can I pledge for something over three years?

First, prayerfully consider what God wants you to do now. None of us knows when we will be called to go home to be with our Lord. However, ask yourself in prayer whether God would want us to not participate in any long-term project because we may die before it is over. Let us remember our past.

In 1973, Father Killion, Pastor of St. Paul's Church in Leesburg, Florida called a meeting in Wildwood to explore the possibility of celebrating Mass in Catholic homes in the area. The attendance at these Masses was so great that Father Andrew, Pastor of St. Lawrence Parish in Bushnell, announced in a letter to Wildwood Catholics that a trial Mass would be held at the Page-Theus Funeral Home Chapel in December 1981.

Because of the overwhelming response, Sunday and Holy Day Masses were celebrated there for the next 13 years. Over the years parishioners have been raising the funds that enabled the building of the first church, as well as our present church. They passed on a legacy of planning for the growth of St. Vincent de Paul Parish. Now it is our turn to take up that legacy for future parishioners and generations.

Question 2: How do I make payments?

On your pledge card you will be able to determine how many years (one, two, or three) you want to pay it off and how often you want to make that payment (annually, bi-annually, monthly, weekly, etc.). Reminders will be customized to your preference. You can then send in the payments with the reminder you receive or arrange to have the payments automatically deducted from your Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover card or a checking account.



Question 3: Why do you talk about "sacrificial" giving and what does it mean?

Generosity is not measured by the size of a gift, but rather by the sacrifice that goes into the gift. Jesus specifically points this out while observing people donating to the temple. He identifies the widow's gift as more than all the rest, because it was not given from her surplus, but from her own need (Luke 21: 1-4). Not everyone will be able to contribute the same amount of time, talent, and treasure. What is hoped for is that all are making a sacrifice in the spirit of faithful generosity for what God has given to them.

Question 4: What should I be praying about in terms of what to give? Is there a mathematical formula which may help?

There is no mathematical formula for what you should give. Pray about it. Think about the gifts that God has given to you. Think about what you could sacrifice to make your contribution toward the needs of St. Vincent de Paul's community. Through prayer, answers will come to you.

Question 5: Will there be another capital campaign in the future?

With the successful conclusion of this capital campaign and continued financial support in the ongoing years, there will be no need for another capital campaign in our planning process at this time.

BUILDING THE WAY TO HEAVEN

C o n t a c t I n f o r m a t i o n

For questions concerning the Building the Way to Heaven Capital Campaign you may contact

Carmen Kreeger at:
(352) 330-0220
stvincentchurch@sumtercatholic.org

For questions concerning your Building the Way to Heaven Campaign pledge or payments' schedule you may contact

Marco Robles at:
(407) 753-2055

Thank you for your sacrificial gift.