

Fellowship. Faith. Learning.

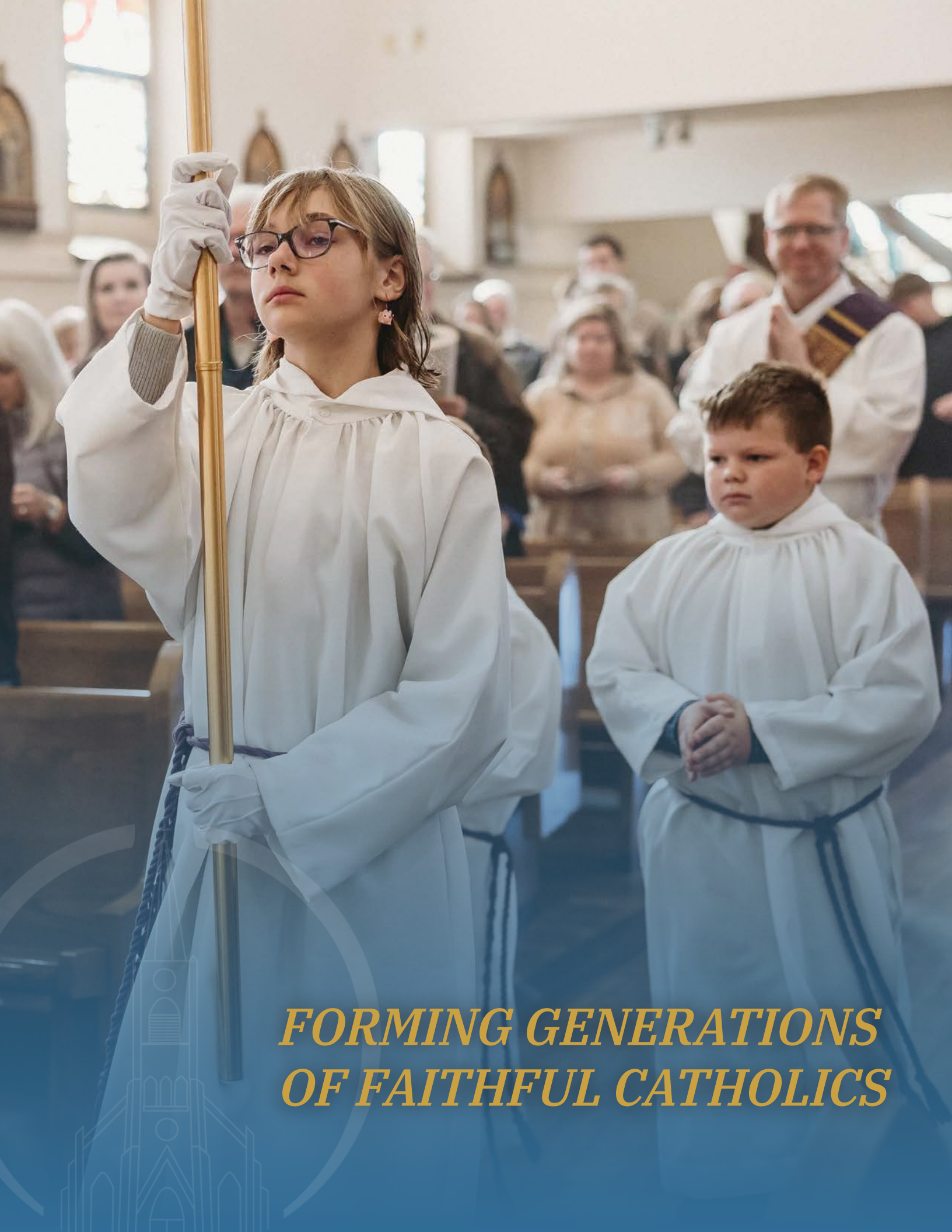


FORMING GENERATIONS OF FAITHFUL CATHOLICS



ST. MARY'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH

A CASE FOR SUPPORT



*FORMING GENERATIONS
OF FAITHFUL CATHOLICS*

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

When I stand at the altar on a Sunday morning, I see the face of St. Mary's: families who have worshiped here for generations, young children preparing to receive the Sacraments, and neighbors who have become lifelong friends. For 160 years, this community has gathered in faith and found, in one another, the support to live and witness the Catholic faith.

That legacy is not accidental. It was built by immigrant families who constructed this church with their own hands, and sustained by every generation since who believed the Catholic faith was worth protecting and passing on. In 2019, when our school faced a serious financial crisis, you answered. The parish raised more than \$214,000, reopened our preschool, and proved once again that St. Mary's supports and embraces the mission of Catholic education.

We now have an opportunity to build on that renewal. Our parish has no dedicated gathering space, no center for ministries, faith formation, and fellowship that are the lifeblood of a Catholic community. Our

school, the only Catholic school in Woodford County, celebrated its 150th anniversary this year. The school building serves our parish school and CCD well, but its facilities are aging and its limitations are real. These needs are an invitation in our current day to continue the mission of our parish in Metamora.

I am pleased to share that St. Mary's is exploring the possibility of a **capital campaign built around purposes that have defined our parish: Fellowship, Faith and Learning.** Through a phased campus renewal, we will create the spaces our community needs to grow in faith together and form the next generation of faithful Catholics.

I am grateful for your prayerful consideration of this vision, and for your generosity in all the ways, large and small, that you have supported St. Mary's through the years.

In Christ,



Father David M. Kipfer
Pastor, St. Mary's Catholic Church





OUR MINISTRY *HISTORY*

St. Mary's Catholic Church has roots in Metamora that predate the parish's formal organization. In the early 1860s, a small group of German, French, and Irish immigrants began raising funds to build a church for their growing community. The first Mass in Metamora was celebrated in the county courthouse. In 1864, the church was completed, built by the faithful themselves, without a resident priest to lead them.

In the years that followed, the Capuchin Fathers and later the Franciscan Friars guided St. Mary's through more than a century of growth and change. The church was enlarged, a bell tower erected, and a school established. When the Franciscans departed in 2001

after more than a hundred years of service, Diocesan priests continued serving the parish of St. Mary's.

St. Mary's School opened in 1874, making it the longest continuously operating Catholic school in Woodford County. Generations of Ursuline Sisters, Franciscan Sisters, and dedicated lay teachers have guided its students through every challenge this community has faced: fire, depression, pandemic. The school has persevered because the families of St. Mary's have repeatedly supported the mission of Catholic Education in a school setting.

Today, enrollment is at its highest point since 2016 and growing. In 2024 and 2025, St. Mary's



2016-2017 Students

celebrated 150 years of Catholic education in Woodford County, a milestone that belongs to every generation of this parish, from its immigrant founders to the families today. Because of years of generosity from our parishioners, we have financial savings that we will utilize in this campaign to support our growing vision.

OUR PARISH TODAY

St. Mary's Catholic Church exists to worship God, celebrate the Sacraments, and form faithful Catholics in Metamora and Woodford County. At the heart of that mission is the Gospel call to share the faith - faith that is worth knowing, practicing, and handing on.

St. Mary's School carries that conviction into daily life. As the only Catholic school in Woodford County, the school provides Pre-K through 8th grade students with a rigorous curriculum integrated with the teachings of Jesus Christ. Students are called to foster collaborative innovation, align their learning with their individual gifts, inspire virtue-driven leadership, treat everyone with kindness, and honor the teachings of Christ as revealed in Catholic doctrine. What students learn in the classroom and in the church, St. Mary's hopes they carry into every corner of their lives and eventually hand on to children of their own.

That mission is lived out every day on the St. Mary's campus.

On any given weekday, the campus is alive. Daily Mass is celebrated; the prayer garden is available for reflection and prayer, and many parish groups and committees meet. During the school year, preschool through eighth grade classrooms and playgrounds are filled. Weekly school Mass is celebrated along with the Rosary, Stations of the Cross, and Adorations.

On weekends, three Masses bring parishioners together from across the area. Altar Servers, Lectors, Ushers, Musicians and Eucharistic Ministers give young people visible roles in worship. The Altar and Rosary Society anchors the devotional life of the parish. Faith formation programs reach school and CCD students and Totus Tuus participants. OCIA guides adults into the Catholic faith. Seventh and eighth graders visit residents of Snyder Village twice each month, and parishioners and school families support the Open Arms Food Pantry together.

These ministries, programs, and traditions reflect a **vibrant Catholic community** committed to worship, fellowship, formation, and service. They demonstrate the strength of St. Mary's today and the promise of what can be accomplished in the future.



397
HOUSEHOLDS

1,277
INDIVIDUALS



BAPTISM

8 MINORS | 1 ADULT | 1 CONDITIONAL

2 PROFESSIONS OF FAITH

FIRST EUCHARIST



12 CHILDREN | 4 OCIA

CONFIRMATION



22 CHILDREN

4 OCIA

RECEIVED INTO THE CHURCH



4 ADULTS | 2 CHILDREN



A PLACE TO GATHER GROW & BELONG

The mission of St. Mary's is strong. Yet the campus that serves this mission was not designed for St. Mary's current needs. There is no dedicated gathering space where parishioners can come together after Mass, where ministries can meet, or where new families can feel welcomed and connected. The school's 1940s addition, which houses the principal's office, reception area, restrooms, and faculty resources, is aging and inadequate. The century-old small gym has outlived its useful life.

These are not merely facility concerns. They represent limitations on the parish and school's ability to foster the fellowship, formation, and sense of community that sustain Catholic life across generations. As St. Mary's looks to the future, the challenge is not whether the mission remains strong, but whether the campus can fully support that mission for the generations to come.

A building campaign is an investment in the future of St. Mary's. It is an opportunity to create spaces that strengthen parish life, support Catholic education, foster deeper relationships, and provide the resources needed for future generations to encounter Christ.





*Renderings are not final and are subject to change.

A Faith-Filled Future



The proposed capital campaign is built around three purposes that have always defined St. Mary's: Fellowship, Learning, and growth in Faith.

Fellowship means belonging, celebrating the Sacraments, participating in Sunday Mass, and growing in community. It means a welcoming space where OCIA candidates feel at home, where parishioners can gather and share their faith and lives through friendship, witness, and education. It means St. Mary's becomes the kind of parish where newcomers are quickly known by name, and where being Catholic in Metamora means being part of something that helps you grow in faith and love.

Learning means formation continues across a lifetime. It means updated classrooms that serve the school's next 150 years. It means adult Bible studies, parenting workshops, CCD, and youth programs that have appropriate spaces. It means OCIA is welcomed with the dignity that those entering the Church deserve. And it means that what has always been St. Mary's most powerful tool, the daily integration of faith and learning, is equipped to thrive.

To accomplish this, St. Mary's proposes a campus renewal project:

Renovation of school classrooms - addressing deferred maintenance and updating core learning spaces and hallways

Construction of a new parish life center - to the west of the existing blacktop, a multi-purpose building designed with flexibility for parish events and community activities

Replacement of the aging 1940s school addition - with a secure, modern entrance and connector linking the school and the new parish life center

Renovation of the school's ground floor and the century-old gym - creating improved cafeteria, meeting, and multi-use spaces for parish and school

All of this presents a vision which allows St Mary's to upgrade and grow our facilities to be worthy of a faith-filled future. Ministries directly impacted by a new Parish Life Center include:

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Advent/Lent Day of
Recollection &
Adoration | • Baptism Preparation | • Knights of Columbus | • School Carnival -
Chili Supper |
| • Altar and Rosary
Society | • Bible Study | • O.C.I.A. Classes | • Sports/Extra-Curricular |
| • American Heritage Girls | • C.C.D. | • Parents Night Out | • St. Mary School |
| | • Christmas Program | • Parish Committee Meetings | • Totus Tuus Summer
Program |
| | • Coffee and Donuts | • Parish Picnic | |
| | • Funeral Dinners | • School Auction | |

BUILDING FOR GENERATIONS: A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR RENEWAL AND GROWTH

GRADES K-3 CLASSROOM RENOVATION



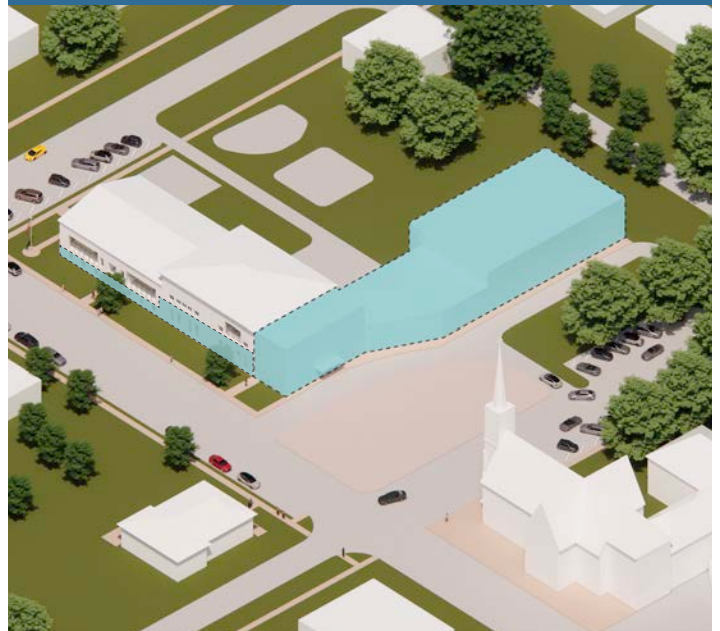
GRADES 5-8 CLASSROOM RENOVATION



PARTIAL DEMOLITION OF 1940'S ADDITION (OFFICES, ART ROOM, TOILET ROOMS, FACULTY RESOURCE ROOM, STAIRS)



ADDITION OF PARISH LIFE CENTER, SECURE ENTRANCE, ADMINISTRATION OFFICES, FACULTY RESOURCE CENTER, FELLOWSHIP AND FORMATION SPACES. GROUND FLOOR SCHOOL RENOVATION



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WILL YOU JOIN US?



A photograph of two children walking down a set of concrete stairs. The child in the foreground is wearing a colorful floral jacket and a plaid skirt. The child behind them is wearing a blue puffer jacket and dark pants. The stairs are made of concrete and have a metal handrail on the right side. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the stairs and the children's legs.

CAMPAIGN **SUMMARY**

Classroom Renovations
\$2,000,000

***Parish Life Center with
New School Entrance &
Offices***
\$6,250,000

***School Ground Floor
Renovations***
\$1,250,000

TOTAL \$9,500,000

* The project estimates below are good-faith estimates with built-in contingencies to allow for market fluctuations.



ST. MARY'S

CATHOLIC CHURCH



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