



Arise & Become the Voice of St. Mary

CAMPAIGN FAQ #1

Why are we conducting a campaign?

Our beautiful church needs to be preserved, and we don't have the reserves to underwrite necessary repairs and renovations.

I already give to offertory, why is that not enough?

As good stewards of our parish finances and facilities, we must address these needs. Generous and consistent offertory support from our parishioners and visitors allows us to fund our normal operations and ministries. As we do not have a surplus, we must conduct a campaign to raise additional funds.

Aren't we still paying on the school debt owed to the Diocese of Lincoln? Are the bills for work that has been done been paid?

Recently, an anonymous donor donated a gift to pay off the remaining debt. This debt associated with the former St. Mary school is now off the parish financial books,

and we will begin the *Arise & Become the voice of St. Mary* campaign debt free! All invoices for work in Phase II have been paid, along with the construction loan.

We have been slowly making improvements for some time. How will this campaign be different from the Opening Doors to the Heart of St. Mary campaign?

The restoration of St. Mary Catholic Church began in 2021 with the creation of a restoration committee and an architectural assessment to prioritize the needs. The work has been and will be an ongoing process. Our goals for the *Arise & Become the voice of St. Mary* campaign are to:

- Renew Flynn Hall
- Increase accessibility by installing an elevator and ramp
- Preserve the historic character of the church building by repairing and restoring the church exterior
- Support community through meeting our parish commitment for the Pius X campaign.

With the debt paid off, what does that mean for the pledge I am still paying on throughout the next year? If the campaign financial goals have been fully funded, do you need my continued pledge payment?

There are parishioners making payments on pledges to the *Opening Doors* campaign and some of those payment plans continue through 2026-2027. As we kickoff the *Arise & Become* campaign, we are asking everyone in the parish to pray about their financial commitment to the new campaign, *Arise & Become the voice of St. Mary*.

If you are currently paying on a pledge, what happens is your choice. The outstanding pledges we continue to receive from the *Opening Doors* campaign can be applied to our new project and help us reach the *Arise & Become* goal. When you complete your pledge card, you will have the opportunity to note if you wish to complete your current pledge and make a current pledge, or you may end your pledge and start a new pledge. If you have questions about your current pledge, please contact Riley Bittner at the parish office.

I'm still not quite sure how this will work. Can you provide a couple examples?

During the next week, each family will receive a packet in the mail containing our case for support booklet explaining the projects and a gift request letter from Father Walsh. Here are a few examples:

DONOR A is paying on a \$3,000 pledge through March 2026. Their business will be growing, and they want to increase their pledge to \$7,500, but it would be ideal for them for the increased payments to start July 1. They can continue paying on their pledge through March and then start the new \$7,500 pledge payment plan on July 1.

DONOR B is paying on a \$3,600 pledge through Dec. 31, and would like to extend the pledge, at the same monthly payment amount, for three additional years. They can do that, and we are grateful!

DONOR C is scheduled to pay on a \$1,500 pledge through March 2026. They received a gift from a family member's estate and want to increase their pledge as soon as possible. They are currently giving \$42 a month and want to increase their pledge to \$150/month beginning in the new year. They will let the parish office know they want December to be their last payment on the current pledge, and will complete their pledge card with a new \$150/month pledge to begin in January.

Do I have to give a certain amount? Must I make a three-year pledge?

Your gift request letter will ask for a specific amount; the decision on what amount to give is up to you, what God is calling you to give, and determined with your spouse or family. Three-year pledges allow many people the ability to plan their sacrificial giving and make a larger gift. The decision rests with you and, if applicable, your spouse.

What is the deadline to complete my pledge card?

As gifts are given freely, we will give you the time you need to consider your gift. Committee members aim to gather as many pledges as possible before the end of the year. Since the campaign continues for three years, if the final quarter of this year is not the best timing for you, please just let us know what you wish to do.

What is the construction timeline for the projects?

Construction in Flynn Hall began in August 2025 and is scheduled for completion in February 2026. We plan to begin work on the elevator in Spring 2026. The exterior restoration will follow. Our plan is to have the gifts and/or pledges for the work in hand before we begin the projects, so this may affect the timeline.

*How can I get more information on the campaign?
How will we hear about its progress?*

Information on the campaign will be included in the weekly bulletin and as we prepare for the kickoff of our campaign at the end of October, a campaign information resource center will be located in the narthex of the parish. Stay tuned...next week, more information on the projects will be included in the bulletin!

MARY THE TEMPLE,
Christ the temple's Lord:
MARY THE SHRINE,
Christ the God adored!

—MARY THE DAWN,
FR. JUSTIN MULCAHY, C.P.