

Frequently Asked Questions

Why were these spaces chosen for updates at this time?

These spaces were chosen for updates to meet the evolving needs of a growing parish community. With over 74 active ministries and faith formation programs, St. Paul the Apostle requires more flexible, accessible, and welcoming environments for worship, fellowship, and service. The planned improvements will enhance hospitality, support clergy and visiting leaders, expand space for gatherings and ministry, and ensure that parish operations are centralized and easy to access.

What projects are planned for “Beautify Our Sanctuary?”

With the funds allocated towards “Beautify Our Sanctuary,” we will:

- Add meaningful artwork to the sanctuary and install a visible tabernacle to enrich our worship during Mass.
- Replace the church and chapel doors to create a more inviting entrance for everyone.
- Update the worn carpet throughout the church, chapel, Gathering Space, and Lower Level.
- Install a new projection system to enhance the Mass experience with improved visuals and sound.

What work will be done on our West Entrance?

The West Entrance renovation will feature a new circle drive with a covered entry and updated handicap parking, making the entrance more accessible and welcoming for all.

What will the expanded Gathering Space look like? What types of events will be held in renovated space?

We plan to expand our upper gathering space into a 3,500+ square-foot banquet-style hall that accommodates 250–300 guests. Featuring a full-service kitchen, dedicated storage, and flexible design with moveable walls, this renovated space will provide a welcoming environment for parish events, holiday celebrations, outreach initiatives, and life’s sacred milestones. Additionally, new parish offices and a conference room will be added to further bring opportunities to gather in different group sizes. The expansion will foster community connection by offering more opportunities for socializing, improving accessibility, strengthening ties with local organizations, and alleviating scheduling challenges.

Are there plans to hire additional staff to support the expansion of the Gathering Space?

There are currently no plans to hire additional staff to support the expansion of the gathering space. However, if the need arises in the future, we intend to offset any staffing costs through the increased income generated by renting the enlarged space.

How will the lower Gathering Space be utilized once the administrative offices are relocated upstairs?

The lower level will continue to house some offices and remain an active space for faith formation, youth ministry, and other groups focused on faith sharing.

What is the benefit of relocating Fr. Chris’s and Fr. Martin’s offices?

By relocating our parish administration offices, we will provide a peaceful, private workspace for clergy, a dedicated guest room for visiting pastors and ministry leaders. The Parish House, specifically the Great Room with a new restroom added to the lobby, will continue to be used for parish meetings. In the

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meantime, the priests will be staying in the rectory side of the Parish House, and the small offices, which we are currently using, will provide them with a quiet space to prepare the liturgies.

How will construction affect parishioners' worship experience?

We are committed to working closely with our construction teams to ensure that renovations cause as little disruption to parish life as possible. Our goal is to complete the project efficiently and quickly, minimizing any inconvenience while creating a space that will serve our community for years to come.

Archdiocesan Generation to Generation Campaign Questions:

What is the *Generation to Generation: Answer the Call* campaign?

The *Generation to Generation: Answer the Call* campaign is the Archdiocese of Chicago's capital and endowment campaign to ignite parish renewal, support our seminarians and priests, and assist vulnerable communities through student scholarships and the Parish Vitality Fund.

Why are we embarking on an independent campaign with the Archdiocese of Chicago now?

The *Generation to Generation* campaign supports parishes and schools across the Archdiocese of Chicago, with every parish being required to participate. For our parish, we are seizing this moment to dream big above and beyond the visions set by the archdiocese, to reach towards the parish's needs, while still supporting the greater Church of Chicago. The parish can build our own campaign brand, story and objectives, while leveraging the resources and operational structures that the archdiocese has put in place through *Generation to Generation*.

What portion of funds raised will be contributed to the Archdiocesan campaign?

By integrating the *Generation to Generation* initiative into our own effort, we support the formation of future priests, strengthen parishes, and provide vital student scholarships. Through this collaboration, St. Paul the Apostle will contribute up to \$960,000, affirming our commitment to both our parish and the broader Church community.

Why are my pledge form and subsequent payments sent to the Archdiocese?

As part of our partnership, the Archdiocese of Chicago will be handling the processing of gifts/pledges and pledge payments. This will save St. Paul the Apostle both money and time.

Will *Generation to Generation* affect parish offertory?

Donors will be asked to consider a gift above and beyond their offertory giving. Offertory is expected to remain constant during the campaign's five-year pledge period.

How much will families be asked to give?

Every family in the parish will be asked to consider a sacrificial gift to *Ignite the Future* in the spirit of Christian stewardship. The suggested request amounts will vary from donor to donor.

Why emphasize pledged gifts?

Pledges may be paid in installments over five years, allowing families to make larger commitments than they might otherwise consider. Pledged gifts are typically four to five times larger than a one-time gift.

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Why is an initial payment requested? Is it required?

While not required, many donors are eager to begin fulfilling their pledges. In addition, an initial payment is a strong indication of a donor's commitment to completing a campaign pledge. Initial payment checks should be made payable to: Ignite the Future.

How should payments be made to fulfill a pledge?

After the initial collection of pledge forms at the parish level, the archdiocese will administer the pledge follow-up process. Donors will be given the option of making payments annually, quarterly or monthly for up to five years by check, credit/debit card, automated debit to checking account and securities. Checks should be made payable to: Ignite the Future, with St. Paul the Apostle on the memo line.

Why are donors asked to complete a pledge card?

Pledge cards record and acknowledge campaign commitments as well as provide donors with a reminder of their requested payment schedule. Donors sign the pledge card to authorize the terms of their gift.

Are gifts to the campaign tax-deductible?

You will receive an acknowledgement of your gift for tax purposes. Please also consult with tax and financial experts.

What if I have to change or modify my pledge?

You are able to change or modify your pledge at any time. Please call the Archdiocesan Stewardship and Development Office at 312.534.8500.

For more frequently asked questions, visit the Archdiocesan website at archchicago.org/gentogen.