



TIME FOR GROWTH

Our new capital campaign, **Renew + Restore + Rejoice**, is an initiative that affords all of us the opportunity to contribute to the long-standing and growing faith community of St. Stephen Church and School. Our parish is alive and vibrant and now, together, we have the opportunity to recognize the Lord's blessings and contribute to the near term and immediate needs of our church, school and ministries.

God has blessed each of us in different ways. We recognize that everyone cannot, and should not, give the same dollar amount. It is our prayer that everyone's pledge will reflect individual blessings of God and exemplify genuine, extraordinary giving.

Time for Reflection

As you consider your individual pledge to the Renew + Restore + Rejoice campaign, consider the many gifts that God has given you, and pray for His guidance in your life and the life of St. Stephen. As faithful stewards, it is important to communicate with God through prayer and listen to what He would have us do in His name.

We are embarking on an important next step in the St. Stephen journey! It is time for all of us to pray and reflect on our gifts and blessings. Remember, no one can tell you what an extraordinary pledge is for you. We only ask that you pray and consider your abundant blessings, and then respond as the Lord leads you.



PASTOR
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CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS

Larry & Marion Burns
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HURLING STARFISH

An elderly man was walking along a beach very early one morning when he noticed a boy picking up one starfish after another and hurling them into the sea.

“Why are you doing that?” asked the man.

“To save them from drying up when the sun fully arises,” replied the boy.

“But there are so many thousands of them,” said the man. “What possible difference will it make?”

The boy answered, “Well, Mister, it’ll make a difference to this one,” and he hurled another starfish into the sea.

How did we ever lose the truth that each one of us can make a difference? When did we forget that no matter how small the contribution, every person has incredible dignity before God and incredible value to the church?

EVERY CONTRIBUTION COUNTS

What is the financial investment needed to achieve our church and school community goals?

# GIFTS NEEDED	GIFT/PLEDGE LEVEL	POSSIBLE PAYMENT OPTIONS			CUMULATIVE TOTAL
		MONTHLY (36 WEEKS)	QUARTERLY (12 MONTHS)	ANNUALLY (3 YEARS)	
1	\$1,000,000	\$27,778	\$83,333	\$333,333	\$1,000,000
1	\$300,000	8,333	25,000	100,000	1,300,000
2	150,000	4,167	12,500	50,000	1,600,000
4	70,000	1,944	5,833	23,333	1,880,000
10	\$30,000	\$833	\$2,500	\$10,000	\$2,180,000
12	21,000	583	1,750	7,000	2,432,000
20	12,000	333	1,000	4,000	2,672,000
50	8,000	222	667	2,667	3,072,000
50	\$5,000	\$139	\$417	\$1,667	\$3,322,000
45	3,000	83	250	1,000	3,457,000
25	1,000	28	83	333	3,482,000
Remainder	\$500 or less	\$14 or less	\$42 or less	\$167 or less	\$3,500,000



Common Questions

Q: When will I have an opportunity to make my three-year commitment?

A: It's important to first prayerfully reflect on your blessings and what an "extraordinary and proportionate" pledge would mean in your life. Pledge cards will be made available after Easter. At that time, you will be asked to begin confidentially registering your commitment.

Q: Will my pledge be confidential?

A: Yes! Only the parish business manager will have access to completed pledge cards.

Q. How do I decide what I should commit to our capital stewardship campaign?

A: Prayer and reflection! One of the campaign themes is "Not Equal Gifts, but Proportionate Giving." Everyone is blessed differently. Everyone cannot give the same amount. We ask you to consider not equal gifts, but proportionate giving. If your gift is thoughtful, and above and beyond your normal giving, then your pledge is truly a statement of priority for our Lord's work at St. Stephen.

Q. When will construction start?

A. Once we have 50% of the "cash" needed, we can seek permission from the Diocese to proceed.

Q. Where will Mass be held during renovation?

A. Location is yet to be determined, but possibly the family center.

12 Guidelines for Fruitful Giving

Give first. Make the first use of my income an act of faithfulness to a loving Lord.

Give gratefully. Recall God's gifts and ways this money can matter for eternity. Praise Him, and remind myself of the joy and privilege not of giving, but giving back.

Give faithfully. Cultivate the discipline of faithfulness regardless of how I feel at the time.

Give proportionally. Compare my gifts to no one else's, and happily give from my resources.

Give generously. It seems like a natural law, and it is certainly scriptural, that the way we give and live is measured back to us. I will give as I would love to receive.

Give Sacrificially. I know and God knows when a gift comes from my heart. Practice giving in a way that expresses my love for God's kingdom.

Give cheerfully. God delights in and loves a cheerful giver.

Give freely. Attach no strings or expectations; seek nothing -- particularly public recognition -- in return.

Give personally. Invest myself, my time and my talent. Involve myself in the privilege of returning to God with the first of all I have. Step back and allow each member of my family the same opportunity for personal involvement.

Give quietly. Give without fanfare. God sees, and that is all that matters. Never seek to draw attention, but be prepared to explain why I give.

Give expectantly. Look for ways to share my gifts, bear another's burden, or contribute my resources to God's kingdom.

Give worshipfully. Our model is the Author of giving: "For God so love the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." John 3:16



**This is our
opportunity to:**

**Make a difference
with your resources**

—

**Leave a legacy for
our children and
future generation**

—

**See more lives
changed by the
power of Christ**

IT'S TIME FOR REFLECTION

We have now entered into the prayer phase of our capital stewardship campaign. Many people have been actively involved in the campaign, laying the groundwork for this important phase.

Sometimes we do not pray wholeheartedly because we sense God might change our priorities.

Let us pray that we keep our hearts open to the call of Jesus in our lives.

Let us pray about what it means to be a man or a woman of the Master.

Let us pray not for what we want, but for what God gives us to do.

Let us pray that our giving reflects the wonder of God's grace in our daily walk.

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