

MY PARISH,
MY COMMITMENT,
OUR FUTURE.



- BAPTISM PREPARATION
- MARRIAGE PREPARATION
- SACRAMENTS AND WORSHIP
- CHARITY MINISTRIES
- COMMUNITY MINISTRIES
- MUSIC MINISTRY
- CHURCH DECORATING
- CATHOLIC SCHOOL
- FAITH FORMATION
- EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRIES
- JUSTICE MINISTRIES
- OUTREACH MINISTRIES
- PRAYER MINISTRIES
- BEFRIENDERS
- BABY LAYETTE



Parishioner,
please read
how you can
help ensure
the future of
St. Mary of the Lake.

Each of us has a vested interest in ensuring the well being of our *parish*.
Each of us can make a real difference by making a *commitment*.
And by doing so, each of us helps secure St. Mary's *future*.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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Dear Parishioner,

St. Mary's is now at a crossroads in its history. You have been hearing about our considerable debt, what it means to our parish and how we are going to face this challenge.

Our debt of \$10.7 million must be reduced significantly. We have been responsible in reducing our parish operating expenses in order to meet our debt service. However, further reduction of our debt cannot be achieved only by decreasing our present operational budget because it would force us to diminish and/or eliminate necessary pastoral ministries and services.

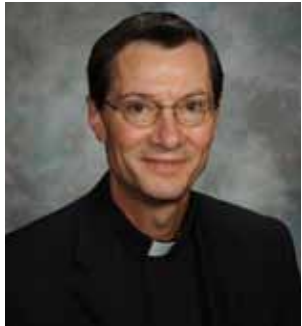
If we continue to operate with a plan that calls for more reductions in our budget, the work of Christ lived out in the mission of our parish will suffer. We cannot let this happen.

Therefore, the time to reduce our debt is now.

Today I ask you to join me in making a generous financial commitment to reduce our debt. I am asking you to make a significant sacrifice.

I would like you to seriously consider a pledge to reduce this debt so that we may sustain and enhance our ministries. I would not ask this of you if it were not so critical to our parish at this time.

Together, we can reduce the principal with the majority of the contributed dollars if we meet our campaign goal.



“As I look to the future of our parish, I feel blessed to be surrounded by faith-filled parishioners. As your pastor, I am most fortunate to serve you and your family.”

I pray that you will join with me on this road of hope. The debt has been a heavy burden on our parish and it is time, as a parish, to remove this burden.

May God continue to bless you, your family, and St. Mary of the Lake.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Rodger Bauman".

Fr. Rodger Bauman, Pastor
St. Mary of the Lake

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My Parish, My Commitment, Our Future is a fundraising effort focused on reducing the debt to preserve and enhance our needed ministries.

Thank you to the parishioners who donated their services in developing this material, including Jim Flaherty, Allegra Printing in Downtown St. Paul, Kate Huebsch, HighPoint Creative, and Rick Bosak, Bosak Design.

St. Mary's is at a crossroads in its 129-year history.

Our \$10.7 million debt must be reduced significantly in 2011.

Failure to do so means significantly reducing ministries, services and staff.

It is time for our parish to reduce this burden.

THE DEBT IS TOP OF MIND

A decade ago, St. Mary's began planning the expansion of the Parish Life Center. We were bursting at the seams – our physical campus was a barrier to meeting our parishioners' needs. The time was right to invest in St. Mary's future. The impact of our expansion and modernization was felt immediately.

Neither our parish nor the experts that guided us foresaw the unusual economic times we live in today that have stressed you and our parish.

St. Mary's Debt:

Construction of Parish Life Center	\$14,400,000
Construction costs paid	(\$3,200,000)
Amount financed	\$11,200,000
Debt from church renovation	\$1,000,000
Initial debt	\$12,200,000
Principal paid (2005-2010)	(\$1,500,000)
Remaining Debt:	\$10,700,000

Prior to construction, St. Mary's began raising funds through its first capital campaign. This campaign provided the down payment on construction costs and showed the parish's resolve to support our expansion. An additional capital campaign was needed after construction for two purposes: 1) support debt service (our monthly mortgage payments); and 2) reduce the principal. The second campaign resulted in minimal reduction of the principal. Without reducing the principal of our debt and subsequent mortgage payment, St. Mary's will have significant difficulty maintaining even basic services as a parish.

Parish leadership recognized the magnitude and impact of our significant debt, not only as a barrier for the parish to live our mission, but also as a challenge to our future viability as a parish. As a result, a parishioner-led third capital campaign has taken action to reduce our debt.

We can take control of the situation by making a commitment to reduce our debt, working together as a parish community during these unusual times.

THE DEBT REDUCTION PLAN

St. Mary's leaders have made tough decisions and continue to work with parish staff to decrease costs. We've budgeted realistically, reduced staff, become more operationally efficient, and relied more on volunteer services. We will continue to do more.

Our parish is blessed with many talented financial experts who have thoughtfully forecasted and modeled scenarios to reduce our debt and help us become even more efficient. It is clear that the time to act is now. The best course of action is to raise enough capital to reduce the principal on our loans. This will enable the parish to make our loan payments out of our operational budget.

DEBT REDUCTION GOAL: RAISE \$4.2 MILLION

- Debt goes from \$10.7 million to \$8 million by Dec 31, 2015.
- We would not need proceeds from another campaign until 2016.
- Funding from parish operations would be \$400,000 annually.



FULFILLING OUR MISSION

It is often difficult to comprehend the magnitude of the impact our parish has on our lives. St. Mary's means so much to so many people...what does it mean to you?

When St. Mary's is able to fulfill its mission, it means that...

- you have an inspiring worship experience in a beautiful environment,
- your daughter can celebrate her wedding at our parish,
- your neighbor or family member receives a prayer shawl at a time when she needs prayers, comfort and support,
- your children have multiple programs for their spiritual and educational development, and
- your parish can provide funeral services to celebrate life and support your family and friends in their time of sadness.

St. Mary's is our spiritual home. It is here that the waters of Baptism welcome us into the community of Faith. It is here that we receive the sacraments of the Eucharist, Reconciliation and Confirmation. These sacraments bring us closer to Our Lord. It is here that many parishioners receive the sacrament of Matrimony and the sacrament of the Sick. This is our spiritual home.

If our operational budget is primarily dedicated to our mortgage payment, St. Mary's will have difficulty delivering the most basic of services and ministries of the Church.

We must continue to live the mission of the gospel. We must tackle our burdensome debt. The time is now.

YOUR PARISH, YOUR COMMITMENT – PREPARE WITH YOUR HEART

We live in uncertain times where there are many things we can't control. St. Mary's is a constant in your life – your spiritual home, your parish. We are asking you to join us in meeting our debt crisis. By reducing our debt now we will regain a position of strength to fulfill our mission to you and to our community. If we do not reach our goal, we will be faced with capital campaigns every few years to service our debt.

We believe our best course of action is a single bold move: raise \$4.2 million. Together, we can reach and surpass this goal.

To reach that goal we need 1,500 St. Mary's households to commit \$1,000 per year for three years to this capital campaign. This is \$20 per week for 36 months – less than the cost of a monthly cable bill or a dinner out with your family. This commitment will keep your parish a viable and vibrant part of your life.

We ask that you prayerfully consider how much you can commit to the future of St. Mary's. We ask you to consider your love for St. Mary's. We ask you, according to your ability, to be as generous as you can.

