

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



What is the plan for QCES?

The Quincy Catholic Elementary Schools (QCES) has recently hired a new Chief Administrative Officer and has a goal of drafting a five-year strategic plan, but at this time, the 'plan' for QCES is unknown. The plan for QCES is currently in development. Regardless of QCES' future, a new cafeteria and classrooms are needed at St. Peter.

As Fr. Leo has stated: if QCES has a plan soon, St. Peter needs a new cafeteria. If QCES has a plan in two years, or five years, etc., St. Peter needs a new cafeteria.

How does this campaign fit with the QCES plan?

QCES is developing a strategic plan for all four Catholic schools. St. Peter will be a part of that plan but to what extent is unclear at this time. What is clear is St. Peter needs a new cafeteria, a parish center and additional classrooms regardless of the QCES plan.

Isn't it better to wait for the QCES plan before we undertake these capital projects?

Short answer, no. Leaders constantly make decisions absent complete information, and without a definitive plan from QCES, and no timetable to have a plan, parish leadership has decided to move forward with necessary and overdue projects.

Will QCES help support or contribute to this capital campaign, as it will benefit QCES/the other three Quincy parishes?

No, QCES will not be supporting the *Upon this Rock* campaign as it is responsible for all Quincy Catholic Elementary schools, and it is not feasible for QCES to support four, individual campaigns.

Will Fr. Leo be at St. Peter to see this campaign through?

Fr. Leo Enlow has discussed with the diocese his intention to remain involved at St. Peter to see these projects to their completion. Fr. Leo must submit paperwork to the diocese next spring due to Canon law, but Fr. Leo's intention is to be here to complete the campaign effort.

Will the Diocese contribute to this campaign?

No. The Upon This Rock Capital Campaign is for St. Peter, by St. Peter parishioners, school families and community. The diocese is simply not equipped to assist parishes and schools with financial support. It is not feasible for the diocese to support parishes and schools.

What is the 10% to the Diocese for? Is there a cap on what we need to contribute to the Diocese from this campaign?

St. Peter is participating in the Diocese of Springfield's *Centennial Campaign*. The Centennial Campaign is primarily raising funds for overdue renovations to the exterior of the cathedral and for seminarian education, with the goal for each parish to address capital improvements and fiscal health. A portion – 10% – of the funds raised in our *Upon this Rock* campaign will be shared with the Diocese of Springfield for the diocesan effort.



Building a cafeteria for 'safety' reasons, and to make it 'easier on our teachers to move students to/from class to the cafeteria' seems like it is convenient more than necessity. Are we spending \$5.1 million on convenience when we could invest that money on better, more impactful programs and fiscally-sound areas?

We are investing in the school and the parish for capital improvements that are needed, and long overdue. Safety for our school children is a priority, not a convenience. Saving time and energy for our students and teachers to travel from classroom to cafeteria is also a priority, and it does happen to be more convenient. Convenience, however, is not the goal but it is a by-product of these improvements.

Building a new cafeteria frees up the current cafeteria space in order to renovate the space for a new parish center. Creating space for a parish center is critical not convenient.

Are other Quincy parishes conducting a campaign like ours?

Yes, or one similar to ours. For the diocesan *Centennial Campaign*, each parish in the diocese has been tasked with completing a Parish Vitality Study, which will evaluate the parish's input, diocesan statistical reporting, census data, and other metrics. This report will serve as a guidepost to evaluating parish participation and engage parish staff and leaders in discerning their mission priorities and effectiveness. All parishes will conduct a campaign between 2023 and 2028.



I heard the school wasn't even filled to capacity now so why do we need more classrooms?

Each of the 21 classrooms, the STEM Lab and the library have a maximum capacity of 25 students. Each classroom for the 2023-24 school year has between 23 and 25 students: two classes of each grade with 1st grade having three (3) classes. Our classrooms are at 92.5% capacity higher.

We also have no classroom space or space for subjects such as art or any special classes that would make our students' educational experience better.

Need for space + no room for growth = need for more classrooms, more classroom space.

Is a \$5 million cafeteria really necessary?

Necessary? Yes. The cost? Unfortunately, costs for construction are higher than they were a few years ago. St. Peter Church and School are as cost-conscious as possible. We are very good stewards of our parishioners' generosity. There is a need for a new cafeteria. A cafeteria project has been discussed for over 20 years. It is time for St. Peter to build a much-needed new building.

Is there another plan to complete some of these projects that is not so expensive?

There is not a less-costly alternative to constructing a new cafeteria.

Why can't we make do with what we have now?

Most likely, yes...but we'd be stagnant. St. Peter Parish and School, and the Catholic Church and education, are in a different position than we were 10-12 years ago. We **have** to look at our school from a standpoint for the students—the kids—and ask, "What do they need to have a great educational experience in a Catholic school?" Families **choose** St. Peter, or St. Francis or St. Dominic, and QND for a reason or reasons. It is a **choice**. What do our families need and want in their scholastic experience?

Beyond having a faith-based experience, and Catholic formation, what are parents and students needing to **CHOOSE** to start, stay and enjoy their time in school. Modernization of classrooms and buildings are essential to provide a great environment for our kids.

What happens if we don't raise the money?

We have every confidence in the world in raising between \$5.5 and \$6.5 million in this campaign.

The Steier Group, our campaign consulting group, conducted the planning study this past summer in order to gather data to provide a projected range for fundraising so that we would have a reasonable goal. The Steier Group has 25-years of experience and a fantastic track record of accurately projecting ranges of fundraising goals.

That said, if we don't raise enough money for the new classrooms, we will have to postpone that construction project. If necessary, there could be some scaling back in renovating the current cafeteria to create a parish center renovation.

Will we take on debt to make all of these projects a reality?

No. We, and you as parishioners, have been so generous is your philanthropy to retire debt St. Peter had over a decade ago, allowing us as a parish to be financially healthy for a long time. We will not take on debt for these projects.



There are school elements to the campaign. I don't have kids or grandkids in St. Peter School, so why should I be asked to support those improvements?

St. Peter is one parish, one community. We are committed to providing an exceptional education for our K-8 students and molding their Catholic faith. That benefits the entire parish as we look to our future. At the heart of a strong parish is a strong school.

Who are we going to ask to support this campaign? School parents? School alumni?

We are one, St. Peter Catholic Parish, and as such, we will invite all those individuals and families whom St. Peter's serves to support the ***Upon this Rock, The Campaign to Build in Faith for St. Peter*** campaign. The campaign is an extraordinary effort, and we will need support and investment from all parishioners, school and religious education families, and school alumni to accomplish our goals. In the course of conducting this campaign, aside from raising funds for true needs, we hope to educate, to inspire, to ignite and reignite, and to strengthen our parish.

Will ALL other parish-related fundraisers and fundraising projects be suspended during the Upon this Rock, The Campaign to Build in Faith for St. Peter campaign? Not necessarily. There are certain fundraisers that raise money for operating costs. ***The Upon this Rock, The Campaign to Build in Faith for St. Peter*** campaign is an extraordinary initiative, above and beyond the investment that school families contribute, above and beyond what parishioners support in the weekly offertory. BUT ... we have not held a capital campaign in almost 20 years. The needs are real, and it will take an extraordinary effort to build the future at St. Peter!

How will the Upon this Rock, The Campaign to Build in Faith for St. Peter Capital Campaign affect parish offertory? Throughout the campaign, St. Peter will ask parishioners to make pledges beyond their regular giving. We will not ask parishioners to diminish their offertory support, but to consider a commitment above their normal tithe. In the long term, similar campaigns have led to increases in weekly giving by raising the sights of parishioners and their commitment to the church.





Why is now the best time for a capital campaign?

There are two main reasons we are launching a capital campaign now. First, we have had the proposed new cafeteria in the planning stage for years...more than a decade. The need to build a new cafeteria, hopefully with added classrooms, is a priority. The renovated cafeteria for a parish center has also been in the works for over ten years.

These projects have been in the planning stage for a long time.

Second, there was overwhelming support for this campaign from you, our parish and school families, when asked in the planning study this past summer.

➤➤ *The time is now to address these capital improvements.*

Doesn't the parish have savings that we can use for these projects, or can't we have special collections to raise the money?

The parish does have savings with the diocese, BUT... we worked very hard to eliminate the parish debt that we wish to keep the savings at the diocese. We CAN raise the money needed to fund these capital projects.

No special collections could raise the funds needed to accomplish our goals. St. Peter has not had a capital campaign in almost 20 years, so it is time for a campaign to make an investment in our parish's future.

How do you determine the pledge amounts we are asking a family to consider?

St. Peter has no way of knowing a family's personal financial situation, income or obligations. The amounts are based on such things as giving history – offertory, annual appeal – and answers shared in the planning study. Our goal is to challenge everyone to consider supporting the *Upon this Rock, The Campaign to Build in Faith for St. Peter* campaign in a meaningful and sacrificial way, in a manner that works for each family. We only ask that you give in a way that reflects the gifts that you have received.

There is no way we can consider a pledge of \$20,000 or \$30,000, but I can contribute something smaller. Will that help?

Yes! We are grateful for every gift regardless of the amount. It may sound cliché, but it is true, that “no commitment is too small.” Consider this: Let's say, for example, there are 100 families each inspired to make a three-year pledge of \$5,000 (approximately \$140 a month). Add it up, and that's \$500,000. It is important to keep in mind that we are not asking each parish family for an equal gift. We will be asking for equally sacrificial gifts.

Will I be able to make my pledge over time?

The campaign will offer opportunities to make payments on a monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual basis. The three-year pledge period also will allow you the flexibility and time you need to make your investment in St. Peter.

How do I make my pledge?

Each family will either receive a pledge card via the parish mailing or through a meeting with a campaign volunteer. Completed pledge cards will either be left with the volunteer or can be returned via the mail or to the parish office.

Will my pledge be legally binding? Will it be confidential?

A pledge is not legally binding, but it is a gift which you consider to be meaningful. We ask that you do your best to fulfill your pledge and advise the parish of any financial changes that will impact your commitment. All pledges will be kept confidential.