



St. Mary Parish Capital Campaign

Frequently Asked Questions: as of 4/28/2026

Father John C. Burnette Retirement

Q: When does Father John Retire?

A: Father John C. Burnette has announced to the St. Mary Parish that he will retire as Parochial Administrator for St. Mary, St. Rita, and Holy Trinity parishes effective August 31, 2026. Our Bishop has appointed Fr. Tomy Philip (see below) as Fr. John's replacement effective September 1, 2026.

Q: Who is Fr. Tomy Philip SAC?

A: Fr. Tomy Philip, currently Parochial Administrator for St. Thomas the Apostle - Newton, IL., and St. Mary of the Assumption - Sainte Marie, IL. is appointed as the Pastor at St. Mary Parish - Taylorville, ILL., effective September 1, 2026.

Fr. Tomy was born on May 24, 1974 in India's state of Kerala and ordained May 5, 2004. In 2009, studied in Rome at the Pontifical Gregorian University and was blessed with many opportunities to have personal interactions with Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. After nine years in Rome, Fr. Tomy returned to India as a Rector at a minor seminary teaching Theology and spirituality. Fr. Tomy served in this role for six years. In November 2025, assumed his role as Parochial Administrator for St. Thomas the Apostle and St. Mary of the Assumption.

In the appointment at St. Mary Parish Taylorville, IL, Fr. Tomy will also oversee Holy Trinity Parish while St. Rita will be realigned with Fr. Peter Chineke of St. Jude Catholic Church - Rochester, IL.

Debt and Maintenance Questions

Q: Is the interest rate on our debt fixed?

A: Yes, it is fixed for the life of the loan.

Q: What is the interest rate on the loan?

A: 4.0%

Q: Are we considering Geo Thermal technology for energy control and efficiencies?

A: No, at this time we are not looking into Geo Thermal technology.

Q: Will the plumbing maintenance fix the water quality?

A: Yes, we will be replacing all the pipes (connectors) leading to fixtures / fountains.

Q: Will the new fountains have “fill bottle” features?

A: Yes.

Financial Questions

Q: What will we do with the money raised from the campaign?

A: The campaign priorities are as follows:

- 1) Pay off the debt for the School and Church.
- 2) Solidify our annual operating budget
- 3) Repairs and refurbishment as needed.

Q: Is there a system in place that holds people accountable as to where the funds go?

A: The system in place is oversight from the Diocesan finance group and our own Finance Council.

Q: How can we be assured that a new priest will not use Capital Campaign funds recklessly?

A: We will have oversight from the Diocesan finance office and our review of our expenditures by our own Finance Council in compliance with Canon Law. Monies will not be spent without approval from the Finance Council.

Q: How do we move money from my Financial Advisor to the Capital Campaign bucket?

A: A separate account will be set up for only Capital Campaign funds. These funds will stay separate from our regular Offertory giving. For more information about this option call or email Amanda Corso, (217) 824-8178 or acorso@stmarytaylorville.org, or a member of our Finance Council.

Q: How much should I give?

A: If you are looking for a giving guideline, please prayerfully consider giving 3% of your annual family income for each year of the three-year campaign (over and above regular weekly giving to the church) or a one-time gift of 3% of assets. Some may be able to do this and more. Others may need to choose a different amount. Please know that every gift, whatever the size, will be an important contribution to the Capital Campaign and will help further God's mission through St. Mary Catholic Parish.

Q: How can I donate stock?

A: Donating appreciated stock or property is an optional way to give. It can save on capital gains tax and is a tax deduction. We recommend that you contact your own tax advisor before making this kind of contribution. For more information about this option call or email Amanda Corso, or a member of our Finance Council at (217) 824-8178 or acorso@stmarytaylorville.org.

Q: In churches with comparable demographics to St. Mary, what percentage of households pledge?

A: Recent church campaigns data indicates a range of 50-60% of the total households financially supports the Capital Campaign.

Additional FAQs to Consider Including:

Q: When can I make a financial commitment to the Capital Campaign?

A: Commitment Weekend, May 16/17, is the time set aside to turn in our completed pledge cards in Mass. If you are unable to attend that weekend, you may 1) mail it to the church, 2) drop it by the church office or place it in the Offertory in a later Mass.

Q: What happens if because of unforeseen circumstances such as health or job issues, someone is unable to continue fulfilling a pledge?

A: The pledge card is not a contract. It is an agreement between you and God. If something unexpected does occur that affects your Capital Campaign pledge, pledge fulfillment, please inform Amanda Corso at the church office.

Q: Why was it decided that the capital campaign would cover three years?

A: Capital Campaigns take a great deal of time and energy. More frequent campaigns would be burdensome on the church. Research shows that campaigns that extend longer than three years are less likely to succeed.

Q: What is the timeframe for us to fulfill our pledges?

A: The campaign runs for three years (May 2026 - April 2029).

Centennial Campaign Questions (transcribed from Diocesan Website)

Q: How will my parish participate in the Centennial Campaign?

A: Your parish is being asked to participate in the Centennial Campaign in three ways:

1. Conduct a Parish Vitality Study to discern how your parish mission impacts your community and to ensure funding well into the future for the campus, mission priorities and ministry growth.
2. Create your parish case statement for the campaign and determine your project goals, timeline (all parish campaigns should be in an "active" phase by January 1, 2025), and if you will need a fundraising council. The Office for Parish Vitality and Mission Advancement will assist with your goals and recommendation for Catholic campaign consultants, as needed.
3. Conduct your Parish Centennial Campaign. An "active" campaign is one that has a start-end date, campaign fundraising goal, pledges accepted, and clear goals for renewal. A benchmark of an average fundraising campaign at a parish is 1.5 times annual offertory, however your goal should encompass your mission priorities, campus needs, ministry and staffing needs, debt reduction, savings growth and long-term sustainability through participation in endowments.

Q: How is my parish's campaign goal calculated, and what is the Parish Tithe Centennial contribution going toward?

A: Each parish has been assigned a fundraising goal calculated as the average of FY22 and FY23 unrestricted giving, multiplied by 1.5—a factor consistent with the industry standard for parishes raising 1.5–2.5 times their annual unrestricted giving in a three-year pledge capital campaign. A Parish Tithe of 10% of the campaign goal will support diocesan capital needs. This tithe is capped: parishes that exceed their goal retain 100% of funds raised above it, with no additional tithe owed.

Like parishes, the diocese must periodically invest in its own facilities. The tithe will fund exterior brick restoration at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and maintenance at the Catholic Pastoral Center, home to Catholic Charities and campus improvements at the Villa Maria Retreat Center."

Q: What is the campaign goal set by the diocese for St. Mary Parish?

A: The diocese has set a campaign goal of \$610,000 for St. Mary Parish. Our 10% tithe to the diocese is \$61,000. If we raise less than \$610,000, the tithe will remain at \$61,000. Any amount raised over \$610,000 is not subject to a tithe.

Q: How can I participate in the Centennial Campaign?

A: As an individual and/or household, you have the opportunity to participate as a contributor (time, talent, or treasure) in your parish campaign, which a tithe of the amount raised will be contributed to the larger diocesan campaign for renovation and renewal of diocesan campuses and endowments. If you desire to make a contribution to the diocesan-wide campaign effort, you may do so and designate your gift to any one of the projects.

Q: Why is my parish tithing on a capital campaign; isn't that excluded from the normal tithing calculation?

A: Prior to the launch of the Centennial Campaign, any parish campaign which was Bishop approved was excluded from the Parish Community Tithe. However, the Centennial Campaign is not solely in support of one parish, instead it is a collaborative effort of *all parishes*. As the universal church, our mission priorities include the work needed for diocesan campus

renovation and the diocesan endowment renewals. Your parish tithe toward this effort is *only based on the money raised* in the individual parish capital campaign effort.

Q: How is my parish going to determine our participation in the Centennial Campaign?

A: Each parish should begin by discerning their mission priorities, campus needs, and the capacity and resources needed to effectively "Go and make disciples" (Matthew 28). To this end, each parish should begin with a Parish Vitality Study. This report will be completed by parish staff and leaders, then reviewed by the Pastoral Planning 2025 team and the Parish Vitality Office. We will review and present a report that evaluates the parish 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.

Q: My parish has deferred maintenance projects, can't we just fund to meet those construction needs?

A: Of course, each parish has some type of building assessment needed which may require renovations, demolitions, or new construction. However, this campaign is *not just about buildings*, rather the people inside those buildings effectively going about the mission of the church.

Q: My parish doesn't need to conduct a capital campaign at this time. Our buildings and campus are well equipped.

A: It is a blessing to have a fully functioning parish campus with no need for building renovations or new construction! Now, it is time to review our discipleship, stewardship, and evangelization plan. Consider these questions:

- Do you have a stewardship council which promotes time, talent, and treasure throughout the year?
- Are there parish staff members that are fully supported and resourced for ministry?
- Are there parish staff needs that you have discussed but not financially invested in at this time?
- Are you able to fully subsidize the cost of parish ministries, including your parish-school?
- Are there parishes nearby yours that could be better equipped for mission if you collaborated in ministry life?
- Has your parish been able to save 3-6 months of savings in the Diocesan Savings & Loan program?
- Does your parish, parish school, or cemetery have long-term sustainable funding in an endowment in the Foundation for the People of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Springfield in Illinois?