

Frequently Asked Questions

Who decided what projects should be accomplished?

In December 2023, a list of proposed renovations, repairs and enhancements to the parish buildings and worship space were shared with the parish community during a campaign readiness assessment. Fr. Dan Bachner presented the list of needs to the Buildings and Properties Commission at the Diocese of Joliet on February 6, 2024, and received permission to move forward with the capital campaign.

When will campus improvements begin?

Work can begin on the projects as soon as the parish has the financial resources in place to accomplish them. The Diocese of Joliet requires that 100% of the project amount be committed in pledges and 80% collected on those pledges prior to beginning work. The *60th Anniversary Capital Campaign* invites participants to make a pledge over a five-year time period.

How much should I give?

There is no specific amount per household expectation. The request is that each family prayerfully discern how they would like to help the parish. Every family has different financial means and abilities to give. Gifts at all levels are needed and appreciated.

Is a gift to the Campaign separate and “on top of” my offertory giving?

Yes, a gift to the Campaign would be separate - above and beyond offertory giving. The offertory, whether given on a weekly, monthly or on an annual basis, provides the funds necessary to continue to serve the daily needs of the parish and its members.

Is my contribution to the Campaign and the Offertory tax deductible?

Yes. A charitable gift to St. Raphael Catholic Church, a not-for-profit organization, is tax deductible to the extent provided by law. This requires that the donor itemize his/her deductions by using the appropriate tax forms.

Can I make an IRA – Direct Charitable Distribution to support the campaign?

Yes. Individuals starting at age 70-1/2 can transfer up to \$100,000 from their IRA's to charity tax-free. The gift counts as their required minimum distribution for the year but it is not included in their adjusted gross income. This can be a helpful way to avoid having to pay taxes on your RMD if you want to support a charity, and it gives you a tax break even if you do not itemize your deductions.

Can I make my gift with stock?

Donating appreciated securities offers considerable tax advantages. Donors can deduct the current market value of a stock donation on the date of the gift and do not have to recognize the income from any related appreciation of the securities. To make a stock donation, please contact Marian Johnston at 630-615-7605 or mjohnston@st-raphael.com

What happens if we make a pledge and our income drops? Is my pledge legally binding?

No, pledges are not legally binding. If a family financial situation should change, simply re-evaluate the ability to fulfill the pledge and notify the parish office of the change.

Rejoice Always in the Lord!