

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why does our parish need a new parish hall in addition to the existing Ministry Hall?

Just in the last 10 years, we have been blessed to see the number of Catholic households in our parish grow from approximately 2,500 to more than 3,500. This is great news and a blessing to our sacramental celebrations and parish life! However, we do not have the ability to host large gatherings in one indoor area. As you will have seen in recent years, for our larger gatherings such as our Ministry Expo, our Ministry Appreciation Dinner, and our Fish Fry Dinners, we must rent large tents and use outdoor space to accommodate everyone. Several ministry events are scaled down based on the size of the rooms available.

How will the Parish Life Center benefit the schools?

Having a parish school and preschool on campus and woven into the life of our parish is a tremendous blessing, not just for school families but for all parishioners! As a result, our school and preschool consistently use space in our Ministry Building, Life Teen Center, and Stapleton Center for large gatherings, concerts, events, and school meetings. In our new Parish Life Center and renovated Church, both schools can host events and meetings in updated, modern, and larger spaces. A new hall will provide our school communities with an appropriate space to host performances, Grandparents' Day, awards ceremonies, concerts, and other special academic gatherings and events.

How were the Master Plan projects determined?

The framework of the campaign began taking shape in 2018 when we hired an architectural firm to conduct a programming study that analyzed the efficiency with which we use our campus facilities. In 2023, we conducted a Master Plan Survey of parishioners that provided all parishioners the opportunity to submit feedback and dream big about the future of our campus. To accomplish all the needs, the Master Planning Committee then composed a five-phase plan to incorporate all the needs, which was followed by an architectural plan and renderings of potential projects benefiting the Church, schools, and all of us who call Saint Jude our spiritual home. We subsequently hired The Steier Group to conduct a planning study to assess this plan and gauge financial support for a capital campaign. The results of the planning study were shared with the leadership and the community in June 2025. Monsignor Joe and parish leadership are using all this quantitative and qualitative data to decide on the initial projects and financial goals of the campaign.

When will construction begin?

Construction on the new rectory began in late June, 2025. Based on the timing of our anticipated capital campaign and the time needed for planning and permitting, we anticipate the construction of the Parish Life Center to begin in early 2027.

When will the projects take place for the preschool and school?

We look forward to improving our preschool and school facilities! While both the school and preschool will benefit from the first phase of our Master Plan with the use of the new Parish Life Center and additional meeting rooms on the lower level of the Church, we currently do not have the extra land on campus to allow for new school buildings until we free up the space using our phased approach. Once the new Parish Life Center is constructed, our current Ministry Building can be retrofitted to house our growing preschool. We can then demolish the old preschool building to allow for the construction of our new Gymnasium for the school. After that, space will be freed up to allow for a new Middle School Building. All of this can only begin after the construction of the new Parish Life Center.

What is the cost of the new rectory, and is it part of the fundraising goal?

A parish rectory is always designed much differently than a single-family home. While the new rectory home will be slightly smaller than the present rectory, it will still accommodate four priest suites and two guest rooms to allow for visiting clergy such as mission speakers, a seminarian, or a potential retired priest who can provide sacramental assistance to the Church and schools. The new rectory will cost \$2.2 million, which includes the purchase of land, all permitting, construction costs, landscaping, and furnishings. This number reflects the market for homebuilding in the Sandy Springs area. Fortunately, Saint Jude enters this campaign in a position of financial strength, and, as we already have the necessary funds in reserve for the rectory, it is not a part of our capital campaign.

Can we expect a Pastor change at Saint Jude during the campaign?

No, we do not expect a pastor change. The strong partnership between Monsignor Joe and our Saint Jude community has inspired the efforts of the campaign thus far, and his leadership will continue throughout the campaign.

How does this campaign relate to the proposed Archdiocesan-wide Capital campaign?

The Archdiocese of Atlanta is still confirming its own goals for a larger appeal to the entire Catholic community of Atlanta, but Saint Jude has separately decided to embark on this endeavor to serve our most pressing needs. The exact timeline for the Archdiocesan effort and the fundraising expectations from our parishioners are currently undetermined.

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