



On a recent Marian pilgrimage, while visiting Sagrada Familia in Barcelona, Spain, I learned two important facts about the basilica: (1) it's a church under construction; (2) it's the largest unfinished Catholic Church in the world.

As we prayerfully relaunch "Building God's Kingdom" we recognize that St. Jude's is a church under construction as well. When thinking about the practical implications of this parish project, I'd invite you to consider the following three steps (stages): scope, schedule and strategy.

Scope.

The initial plan and project was initiated two years ago, in October 2022, under the previous pastor, Fr. Robert Basler. Shortly thereafter he announced that he was stepping down from pastoral leadership and I was named pastor and began my ministry on January 1, 2023.

I'd invite you to carefully review the details as they are presented in the campaign materials. Between the church and school needs we're looking to raise 6.3 million dollars. From the initial campaign, 1.7 million was pledged and of that we have 1.3 million in the bank. That's a fantastic start to what I'm hopeful we can achieve as a community of faith!

Schedule.

As with any major construction project, we are bound to follow diocesan guidance and best practices. Before we can begin construction we have to have 80% of the funding in the bank and 110% in pledged funds committed.

Strategy.

Currently we have approximately 5,000 registered families at the parish. We have a vibrant, dynamic and generous community and are grateful for the support we have received thus far. I'm aware of the sacrifices that this community has made over the last 90 years and it's through this process that we have the beautiful campus we enjoy today. As we move forward, it's going to take a combined commitment and effort from all of us, so I humbly ask that you prayerfully review, consider making a contribution and/or pledge.

Prayer.

Please join me in prayer as we work together on this important mission of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. We join together with St. Jude who is often considered the patron of the impossible along with our Augustinian pillars of faith, St. Augustine and St. Monica, for their intercessions and assistance.

[Please take a moment to listen to the requests I am asking of our parish in a prayerful way. Click here to hear my message.](#)

Blessings,

Fr. Ray