



Fall 2017

Dear Christ Our Light Parishioners,

We know that our parish is no more defined by buildings than a family is defined by a home. Yet both need a place to live that is welcoming, comfortable and accessible; a place where the light of Christ can shine. Here in that light, wonderful things can happen, as they have happened over the past eight years.

Through a very deliberate, thoughtful and respectful process that began nearly eight years ago, we have reached the point where we are ready to embark on a journey to unite our parish on one campus. With trust in the Holy Spirit, **we now launch our \$5,000,000 capital campaign that will invite every parish household to offer a 36-month financial commitment between December 1, 2017 and November 30, 2020.**

The funds raised through the initial capital campaign will purchase the 107-acre site for our new church campus, grow a substantial down payment for the future building project, and fund the preliminary planning, feasibility study and capital campaign expenses.

The decision we choose to make regarding our campaign commitment will testify to our determination to pass on what we have received here: the gift of community centered in Jesus Christ and the sacramental life of the Church. It is up to each of us to help protect and grow these good things for ourselves and for generations to come.

Now is the time for each of us to pray, hope, and have the courage to act in faith that God will keep His word to look after our needs. Let us start with the question – **What does God want me to give, rather than what can I spare?** If we can each answer that question, then our campaign commitment will be a true blessing for our parish and for our family. Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and financial support as we move forward in faith to build our future in Christ.

Capital Campaign Cabinet

- Jamie Anderson
- Fr. Kevin Anderson
- Don Herman
- Keith Julson
- Bill Lavigne
- Greg Schoen
- Art Skarohlid
- Nancy Thielke
- Sally Weddel

REFLECT • PRAY • COMMIT

Uniting Our Faith Community

We are Grateful for Your Involvement and Support

Christ Our Light Catholic Parish is truly blessed by your presence and active participation. In gratitude, we give thanks for all you do by way of providing your talents and financial gifts for the good of our faith community.

Moving Forward With Faith and Resolve

Fiscal responsibility and forward thinking, two characteristics of a healthy parish, helped guide the decision to initiate a capital campaign that will invite every registered household and interested visitors to offer a **36-month financial commitment between December 1, 2017 and November 30, 2020.**

Achieving our ambitious \$5,000,000 goal requires four things:

+ PARTICIPATION

Christ Our Light Parish belongs to all of us. For this reason, every household will be invited to offer a sacrificial financial commitment over the next three years.

+ COMMITMENT

The commitment should be in addition to what is contributed weekly or monthly (the regular collection) to support the annual operating needs of our parish ministries.

+ SACRIFICE

We are all called to sacrifice today to create a brighter tomorrow.

+ HOPE

We must have hope that we can each do our part to help achieve our goal.

Acquisition Phase – Financial Goal – \$5,000,000

• Purchase the entire 107-acre new campus site	\$600,000
• Create a down payment fund for our new church/related facilities	\$4,300,000
• Fund the architectural design, feasibility study and campaign fees	<u>\$100,000</u>
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FINANCIAL GOAL	\$5,000,000

Financial Commitments Needed to Fund Our \$5,000,000 Acquisition Phase

- + Our capital campaign is structured on well-tested fundraising principles and strategies.
- + A broad base of support from all parishioners is essential to our overall success.
- + The commitment of several major supporters must lead the way for this effort to succeed.
- + Advance Gifts, offered early in the campaign, provide the foundation and inspiration that will enable the capital campaign to reach its ambitious, but achievable, \$5,000,000 financial goal.
- + Some may choose to provide their financial support in one payment, while others may choose to spread their support over the next 3-4 tax years.
- + The following gift table demonstrates the pattern of gifts needed to fund the Acquisition Phase.

Number of Gifts Needed	Total Gift for 36 Months	- Initial 10% Payment	= 156 Weekly Payments	36 Monthly or Payments	3 Annual or Payments
1	\$500,000	\$50,000	\$2,885	\$12,500	\$150,000
2	\$200,000	\$20,000	\$1,154	\$5,000	\$60,000
5	\$100,000	\$10,000	\$577	\$2,500	\$30,000
10	\$50,000	\$5,000	\$288	\$1,250	\$15,000
20	\$35,000	\$3,500	\$202	\$875	\$10,500
36	\$20,000	\$2,000	\$115	\$500	\$6,000
55	\$10,000	\$1,000	\$58	\$250	\$3,000
70	\$5,000	\$500	\$29	\$125	\$1,500
100	\$3,600	\$360	\$21	\$90	\$1,080
200	\$2,100	\$210	\$12	\$53	\$630

The table is based on a minimum of 37.6% participation (499 of 1,327 registered households) offering financial support. This chart represents the average number and size of gifts that we need to reach our financial goal. It is a flexible instrument and the relationship between each level can be adjusted. If the top gifts cannot be secured, then the emphasis will need to shift to other levels and the number of gifts needed at each lower level must increase accordingly.

How You Can Offer Your Financial Commitment

Cash Gifts

A contribution of cash or check given immediately or committed during the three-year pledge term (December 1, 2017 through November 30, 2020) is the most prevalent and often the simplest way to offer a financial commitment from your assets or income. Current tax law provides you with the opportunity for a substantial deduction from your adjusted gross income for a contribution made in any calendar year.

Electronic Payment of Your Commitment

We can provide automatic Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) for your convenience. Our EFT process is similar to payment programs offered by utilities and health care providers. Your contribution is automatically withdrawn from a regular checking, savings, or credit union account. It is 100% secure as only you have access to the account and nothing can be withdrawn without your authorization.

Appreciated Assets

You may find that a gift of common stock, bonds, mutual funds, other securities, appreciated property, donor advised funds, real estate holdings, a personal residence, or other land, could offer a significant tax savings. You may be able to avoid the tax on your gains and deduct the value as a charitable contribution.

Dairy, Grain or Livestock

For some farmers, offering a charitable contribution in kind, rather than cash can increase the tax benefit of the gift. The tax consequences of the gift differ, depending on whether the donor is an active farmer or a landlord.

Age 70.5 or Older – IRA Charitable Gifting

Under the congressional legislation entitled Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH), anyone age 70.5 or older who has a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or Roth IRA, may directly transfer those IRA funds to our parish. The transfer may be any amount up to \$100,000. Specifically, a donor may offer a direct, outright gift to our church from his/her IRA account, and the distribution will be excluded from the gross income for tax purposes. However, the donor will not receive an income tax charitable deduction for the gift.

Good Counsel Is Essential

The information presented is not intended to be legal advice. We encourage you to seek the counsel of a financial planner and/or tax advisor. He/she can help you to determine the most tax-wise method of offering your commitment to our capital campaign, while satisfying your financial planning needs. You are also welcome to contact Fr. Kevin (763-389-2115). If appropriate, he can refer you to a volunteer professional who will be happy to answer your questions in a timely manner. We reserve the right to decline any gift if it would not be in the best interests of Christ Our Light Catholic Parish to accept it.

Gifts of Appreciated Stock

Consider the following examples for illustration purposes only. Be sure to consult with your tax advisor to discuss your own personal circumstances.

Illustration “A” – YOU MAY NOT HAVE TO PAY TAXES ON THE CAPITAL GAINS

- Gift 300 shares of stock to Christ Our Light Catholic Parish at a price of \$100/share that you bought at \$50/share.
- Receive a charitable deduction of \$30,000 on Schedule A of IRS Form 1040.
- Since the stock was gifted to the parish, you may NOT have to pay taxes on the \$15,000 of appreciated value.

Illustration “B” – YOU MAY HAVE TO PAY TAXES ON THE CAPITAL GAINS

- Sell 300 shares of stock at a price of \$100/share that you bought at \$50/share, yielding \$30,000.
- Gift the \$30,000 proceeds in cash to Christ Our Light Catholic Parish.
- Receive a charitable deduction of \$30,000 on Schedule A of IRS Form 1040.
- Since you sold the stock/contributed the proceeds, you MAY have to pay tax on the \$15,000 of appreciated value.

Use the following process to maximize your tax savings!

1. Decide the number of shares of stock to gift to Christ Our Light Catholic Parish. Contact Jamie Anderson, parish Business Manager (763-856-4401) to obtain the parish brokerage account information and let her know the stock(s) and number of shares you wish to contribute. This is important, as the parish does not receive any donor information from any brokerage firm.
2. Call your broker and tell him/her to transfer the stock directly to the parish account. Your broker may request written instruction from you. It should only take 1-2 days for the transfer to occur after Jamie receives instructions from your broker.
3. Be certain to instruct your broker to transfer the shares of stock directly to Christ Our Light Catholic Parish. Please do not sell the stock and then transfer the proceeds to the parish.
4. You may also note your desire to contribute stock on your Letter of Intent commitment form. After receiving your Commitment Form Jamie will contact you to make the necessary arrangements.
5. The average of the high and low price on the day your stock is received by Christ Our Light’s brokerage firm will be used to establish the value of your gift. You will be mailed a written receipt for your gift of stock as required by the IRS.
6. If you are interested in providing a gift of stock or securities, please call Jamie Anderson, parish Business Manager (763-856-4401) and she will be pleased to assist you with the process in a professional and timely manner.

Are You Age 70.5 or Older? — Consider A Tax Free Gift From Your IRA

Under the congressional legislation entitled Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH), anyone age 70.5 or older who has a traditional Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or Roth IRA, may directly transfer those IRA funds to our parish. The transfer may be any amount up to \$100,000. Specifically, you may offer a direct, outright gift to Christ Our Light Catholic Parish from your IRA account, and the distribution will be excluded from your gross income for tax purposes. However, you will not receive an income tax charitable deduction for the gift.

Limitations and Restrictions

1. You must be at least 70.5 years of age.
2. The distribution must go directly from your IRA trustee to Christ Our Light Catholic Parish.
3. There is a \$100,000 per taxpayer (\$200,000 per couple), per year, limit on the contribution.
4. You may receive no economic benefit for having made the contribution.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Suppose my retirement plan assets are not in an IRA but in another type of qualified plan. Can I still take advantage of this opportunity?

A. Yes. Let's assume, for example, that you have assets in a 401(k) plan that you'd like to contribute. What you will want to do is roll over the amount you want to contribute from your 401(k) to your IRA (or, if you don't already have an IRA, to a newly created IRA). Thereafter, you will request that your IRA trustee/ administrator transfer directly to Christ Our Light Catholic Parish the amount you wish to contribute.

Q. Suppose I would like to offer a commitment to Christ Our Light Catholic Parish for my capital campaign gift. Under the law can I pay my commitment from my IRA?

A. Yes. The new law gives you the opportunity to use IRA funds to pay the commitment up to \$100,000 without having to pay income tax on the IRA distributions. It is an ideal way for you to pay a financial commitment from IRA funds that you would not have otherwise been able to use tax-free before the law was enacted.

If you are interested in offering a financial commitment from your IRA Distribution, please call Jamie Anderson, parish Business Manager (763-856-4401) and she will be pleased to assist you with the process in a professional and timely manner.

A Worksheet To Help You Plan Your Financial Commitment

“The troubles they have been through have tried them hard, yet in all of this they have been so exuberantly happy that from the depths of their poverty they have shown themselves lavishly open-handed.” 2 Corinthians 8:2

The decision you will make regarding your financial commitment is a very personal one. God can help you in the process if you ask for His guidance as you pray and consider your decision. Listen for His response as you ask the following questions:

- Will this financial commitment allow me to invest myself, and my family, in Christ Our Light Catholic Parish?
- Am I thinking about a financial commitment that represents what I am truly capable of giving?
- Will this financial commitment demonstrate a sacrifice in my life?
- Should I consider a lifestyle change to accomplish it?
- Have I accumulated (cash, stock, real estate, dairy, livestock, grain, IRA, or other assets) that could be contributed?
- Above and beyond my regular operating support, what portion of my assets or income over the next 36-months could be contributed weekly, monthly, or annually to help Christ Our Light Parish to help unite our faith community?

A PLANNED AND PROPORTIONATE COMMITMENT	AMOUNT	SOURCE OF FUNDS
Initial Payment (at the time you offer your commitment)	\$	
December 1, 2017 – November 30, 2018	\$	
December 1, 2018 – November 30, 2019	\$	
December 1, 2019 – November 30, 2020	\$	
Total 36-month financial commitment	\$	

Having reached your decision, **please complete the enclosed letter of intent and return it to Fr. Kevin within the next 10-14 days** using the self-addressed, confidential envelope. Thank you for your generous support as we work together to honor our past, shape our future, and unite our parish on one campus!

Creating the Church of Tomorrow – A Reflection for Wisdom and Guidance

“It helps, now and then, to step back and take the long view.
The kingdom is not only beyond our effort, it is even beyond our vision.
We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise that is God’s work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying
that the kingdom always lies beyond us.

No statement says all that should be said.
No prayer fully expresses our faith.
No confession brings perfection.
No pastoral visit brings wholeness.
No program accomplishes the Church’s mission.
No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.
We cannot do everything and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.
It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest.
We may never see the end results, but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.
We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.
We are prophets of a future that is not our own. Amen.”

Archbishop Oscar Romero

