

## Introduction

Saint Isidore Parish leadership commissioned this report following a comprehensive parishioner survey and town hall feedback to assess support and readiness for a capital campaign aimed at essential parish infrastructure and community improvements.

The individual interviews, survey and town hall occurred July 22 through August 4, 2025, with over 130 parishioner responses reflecting a broad demographic of parish members mostly affiliated for over 10 years and attending multiple parish locations within the Saint Isidore community.

This study seeks to clarify the parish priorities, identify concerns, and analyze financial and volunteer capacity for moving forward with a capital fundraising campaign. Our thanks to Father Juan Carlos, parish staff, and parishioners for their openness and commitment throughout this process.

## Parish Overview and Demographic Summary

- Most respondents attend St. Aloysius or St. Joseph church locations, with Sunday morning Mass as the most common attendance.
- The parish community is deeply committed, with a strong majority having membership and active participation for over 10 years.
- There is a clear appreciation for traditional worship, the architectural beauty of the churches, and a desire to see repairs and improvements that preserve the heritage of these sacred spaces.

## Capital Needs and Priorities

From both ranked survey responses and detailed comments, the following capital projects emerged as highest priorities, clustered around critical infrastructure, facility improvements, and community space enhancements:

### Top Priorities:

1. St. Aloysius Hall Roof Replacement
2. St. Joseph Parish Hall Renovation
3. General Improvements to St. Aloysius Facilities
4. Improving Cemetery Roads
5. St. Joseph Rectory Renovation
6. Immaculate Conception Hall Parking Lot Maintenance

### Key Themes from Feedback:

- Structural and safety-related repairs (roofs, roads, rectories) are more urgent than cosmetic changes.
- Concerns were expressed about the sequencing and prioritization of projects focused on necessity first.

- Parishioners desire a restoration approach that honors sacred space aesthetics rather than modernization that might detract from traditional beauty.
- There is interest in enhancing multipurpose parish halls and improving accessibility and safety.

## Major Challenges

The following challenges were frequently noted in the parishioner feedback:

- **Communication and Transparency:**  
A recurring topic was the need for better communication and transparency regarding fundraising goals, financial oversight, and project planning. Parishioners want to feel involved, informed, and appreciated throughout the campaign process.
- **Financial Concerns:**  
Some respondents expressed worry about the feasibility of raising the projected capital, the impact on families' financial commitments, and questions about existing funds and diocese contributions.
- **Parish Unity and Usage of Facilities:**  
Comments highlighted a desire for better unity between the various church locations and efficient use of facilities, suggesting more centralized events to foster community cohesion.
- **Youth Engagement and Spiritual Growth:**  
Alongside facilities, there is a call to enhance spiritual life with better youth ministry, PSR participation, and evangelization efforts to sustain parish growth into the future.

## Support for a Capital Campaign

Survey results indicate:

- **Yes:** Approximately 70-80% support moving forward with a capital campaign.
- **Maybe:** About 15-20% are cautiously supportive but desire further details and assurances.
- **No:** A small minority expressed strong reservations about the campaign size or timing.

## Willingness to Support Financially:

- Most respondents indicated a willingness to contribute, with pledge ranges spanning from below \$1,000 to \$50,000+ over a three-year period.
- Several families indicated interest in leadership or volunteer roles to support the campaign effort.

## Volunteer and Leadership Capacity

- A strong number of parishioners expressed readiness to volunteer in various capacities, including outreach, event hosting, and leadership roles.

- There is enthusiasm among parishioners to serve as ambassadors and advocates for the campaign once key details and timelines are communicated.

## Recommendations

1. **Proceed with a Capital Campaign:**  
Begin with a quiet phase targeting top donors to gauge early commitments and build momentum before a public launch.
2. **Develop Clear, Prioritized Project Plans:**  
Create and regularly share transparent communication materials that describe phases of work based on urgency, cost, and impact, prioritizing structural and safety needs first.
3. **Enhance Communication and Transparency:**  
Regular updates through bulletins, town halls, and online portals to keep parishioners informed and engaged.
4. **Emphasize Parish Unity:**  
Strategize the campaign with an eye toward fostering unity across all parish locations, highlighting joint benefits and shared values.
5. **Engage Volunteer Leadership:**  
Recruit motivated parishioners early as campaign leaders and advocates to expand outreach and community buy-in.
6. **Address Spiritual and Youth Formation in Parallel:**  
Incorporate plans for strengthening youth ministry, PSR programs, and broader spiritual engagement alongside capital projects.
7. **Acknowledge Financial Concerns:**  
Provide clear answers about current savings, diocesan contributions, and campaign goals to alleviate donor apprehensions.

## Final Thoughts

Saint Isidore Parish demonstrates a passionate, involved community deeply committed to its faith and heritage. With thoughtful planning, clear communication, and the support of dedicated leadership and parishioners, a capital campaign can be successful in addressing critical needs that will serve current and future generations.

The upcoming months should focus on building consensus, nurturing leadership, and sharing the vision that capital improvements will support spiritual growth and community life for years to come.