

St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Mission
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Memorial of St. Clare
August 11, 2021

St. Katharine Drexel Parishioners and Friends:

Father Murphy and the SKD Building Committee recently received great news—we have a clear path to building our church. *Our 21-year journey from Pace West School to Bull Run Middle School to the Four Hills Farm barn is nearing an end: our church is in sight!*

As you are probably aware, SKD has a 28-acre site at the corner of James Madison Highway (Route 15) and Waterfall Road. This summer, the Diocese of Arlington and the SKD Building Committee finalized a plan that includes a targeted **groundbreaking by early 2022**.

Because of the generosity of parishioners, supporters, and the Diocese, we will be able to construct the necessary infrastructure for the site, including parking areas, access roads, wetlands mitigation, stormwater runoff provisions, sewer line connection, curb and gutter, and all other improvements required by Prince William County. Once started, this site work is scheduled to take approximately 9 months and then, we can begin construction on the St. Katharine Drexel Mission church by approximately September 2022.

While our Mission has enough money for the sitework and the down-payment on the building, multi-year budget projections show that even with projected growth in our community after the church is built, we will have difficulty repaying the construction loan for the first few years of loan payments. *Think of it as your family buying a new car. While you may be able to afford the down payment on that new car, you might have trouble repaying the loan.* Therefore, Bishop Burbidge has asked us to secure a minimum of \$600,000 in new one-time donations or pledges payable over 3 years to pay down the loan principal to an amount that the parish can afford. This new campaign is called the **SKD Cornerstone Campaign**.

One third of you have generously responded to our first two campaigns. The Second Capital Campaign concludes this October, and we need all those who pledged to make good on their word. We announce SKD Cornerstone Campaign now because we want 100% participation come November 2021.

Our goal of a large enough church for Sunday worship, a place for the staff to work and a residence for the pastor is readily achievable. If over the three years of the campaign a family pledged just \$20/week, that would be \$3,120 towards our goal of \$600,000. We have nearly 500 registered families.

Please, prepare, budget, and consider your pledge now. Our campaign will formally launch in November when the first pledge comes due. (The first of the 36 months.) With a strong start now, we can encourage others in November when we officially begin. A letter with details about giving and pledge cards will follow in the mail in the next few weeks.

Building Presentation Session

The building committee invites you to a presentation to learn more and get answers to any questions that you may have. This informational session will be held at Four Hills Farm following 9 AM Mass on Sunday, **August 29**.

To show his support, Bishop Burbidge will be joining us for Mass at the barn on the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sunday, **August 15** at 9:00am.

In Christ,

Rev. Christopher D. Murphy (pastor)

John Stirrup, 703-606-8340, stirrup@alcalde-fay.com

Casey Parker, 571-239-8001, cparker@amberridgellc.com

(Co-Chairmen, SKD Fundraising Committee)