

Realizing the Dream

Campaign Prayer

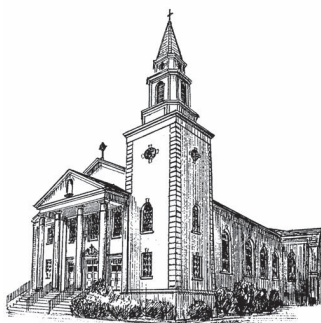


God of all goodness, in every generation, you gather your people together in peace and bind them as one in prayer, in community and in service. For almost one hundred years, you have united the people of St. Mary's as one parish family. We are men and women, adults and children coming from the four corners of the earth, speaking different languages, yet bound together through the power of the Holy Spirit. Through your goodness and the generosity of those who have come before us, we have been blessed in our present home – our church – for almost fifty years.

Now is the time for us, the people of St. Mary's gathered at this time in our history, to ensure that what we have received from those before us may be preserved for those who will come after us. In prayer and in reflection, we now realize the greatness of your bounty and we accept the challenge of offering our time, our talent and our treasure so that we can preserve for future generations what we have been fortunate enough to receive from those who have built before us in faith and trust.

Send your Spirit upon us, O Lord, that we may be cheerful as we accept joyfully this next phase in the life of our parish. Help us to share a portion of our gifts, so that we, as a parish, may **realize the dream** and preserve for those who come after us what we have received in gratitude.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



1961 - 2011

50th Anniversary of the present Church Building

St. Mary's Church
Dumont, N.J.



St. Mary's Church
280 Washington Avenue
Dumont, New Jersey 07628
201-384-0557 – 201-384-4986 (fax)

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. Mary's,

In 1961, the cornerstone was laid for our present church building, the place where we gather each Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist and to be united as one around the table of the Lord. Parish families at that time sacrificed to ensure that future generations would have a place to worship – to share the Eucharist and to celebrate the other sacraments which are so necessary to the life and faith of any parish community. We are now preparing to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our present church in 2011.

As we do so, we are turning another page in the book which is the history of our parish. We are venturing forth and, in doing so, we are **Realizing the Dream** of ensuring that the treasure we have received from others will be preserved so that those who follow after us will be able to gather here to pray, to learn, to share faith, to celebrate all that we have and all that we are.

New ventures are always a little frightening and they certainly bring with them a level of anxiety. As a community of faith, however, we remember those comforting words that the Lord Jesus spoke just before he returned to the Father – **Remember – I am with you all days until the end of time.** We remember what the two disciples learned on the road to Emmaus that first Easter Sunday morning – we do not journey alone. **The Lord walks with us and we walk with each other.**

You will have the chance to read in this brochure what we hope to accomplish as we move forward with this campaign. I sincerely hope that, in reviewing the various aspects of the dream we hope to realize, you will accept the invitation - and the challenge – of ensuring that we will show how much we care. We want future generations who will be a part of the family of St. Mary's to have what we have been so fortunate to have – a place to thank the Lord, a home where they can join in prayer as we have done, to offer praise to a God who loves us and guides us.

May God's peace and the guidance of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

In the Lord Jesus,

Rev. Robert G. Laferrera
Pastor

Please Consider a Special Commitment...

Some of us have been especially blessed by the Lord with material means. A heartfelt appeal is made to those parishioners to reflect on their ability to make a very generous pledge to the campaign. We ask that those who are capable of making pledges of \$10,000, \$20,000, \$25,000 or more lay the foundation of success for this appeal.

Please Consider...

- Your commitment contribution payments are made over a three year (36 month) period. If necessary, arrangements can be made for payment over a four year (48 month) period.
- **Your commitment to the St. Mary's "Realizing the Dream" Capital Campaign is in addition to your weekly tithing contribution.**
- Your financial commitment to this appeal will help ensure a strong future for the parish.
- As of July 2008, payment reminders and envelopes will be mailed according to your payment preference.

Tax Advantages of Thoughtful Giving...

Federal and state laws on income and inheritance taxes encourage charitable giving. All annual contributions to our campaign are tax deductible for those who itemize their deductions. It is particularly advantageous for some people to contribute appreciated securities. If you chose to contribute appreciated securities held more than 12 months, you will receive double the tax benefit through:

- Avoiding the capital gains, which would be paid if the stock were sold.
- Receiving a charitable deduction equal to the fair market value at the time of the gift as opposed to the purchase.

Procedure to Transfer Stock:

Please have your stock broker or securities advisor transfer securities gifts to:

STEINBERGANNA Wealth Management
76 New York Ave. Suite 2
Huntington, NY 11743
888-886-2662

Please indicate on your pledge card the number of shares and the name of the company. Please also call the campaign office and notify the campaign director immediately so we can confirm that the securities were received, authorize the sale by our broker, and send you the appropriate acknowledgement letter.

Pledging:

- You may be contacted by a volunteer to make your pledge.
- You may pick up a pledge card on certain Sundays throughout the month of May and June in the Church.
- You may drop off the pledge at the rectory.
- You may also contact the Campaign Director in the Rectory at (201) 384 – 0557 ext. 31.

Our Family of Faith Looks to the Future...

As members of the St. Mary's Parish family, we are faced with a challenge that only together can be overcome. The projects which are planned for the restoration and renovation of the Parish building and grounds are important to each and every member of the St. Mary's family. It is only by our generosity and reflection for a sacrificial commitment that we will be able to accomplish our objectives.

We have established a minimum goal of \$1,000,000 in order to put forth our projects. While this seems like a large amount, participation by all members of the parish family will not only make this goal attainable, but surpassable.

Suggested Gift Plans...

In order to assist you in your consideration of a commitment to our appeal, we have listed a suggested gift plan. We understand that each individual or family has different financial obligations and abilities. Yet one of these plans should be within the means of most of the parish family. Please consider which plan best fits your monthly budget, and this may be the best guideline for your commitment. **Remember, this Campaign is based on equal sacrifice, not equal giving.**

Giving Plans to Consider

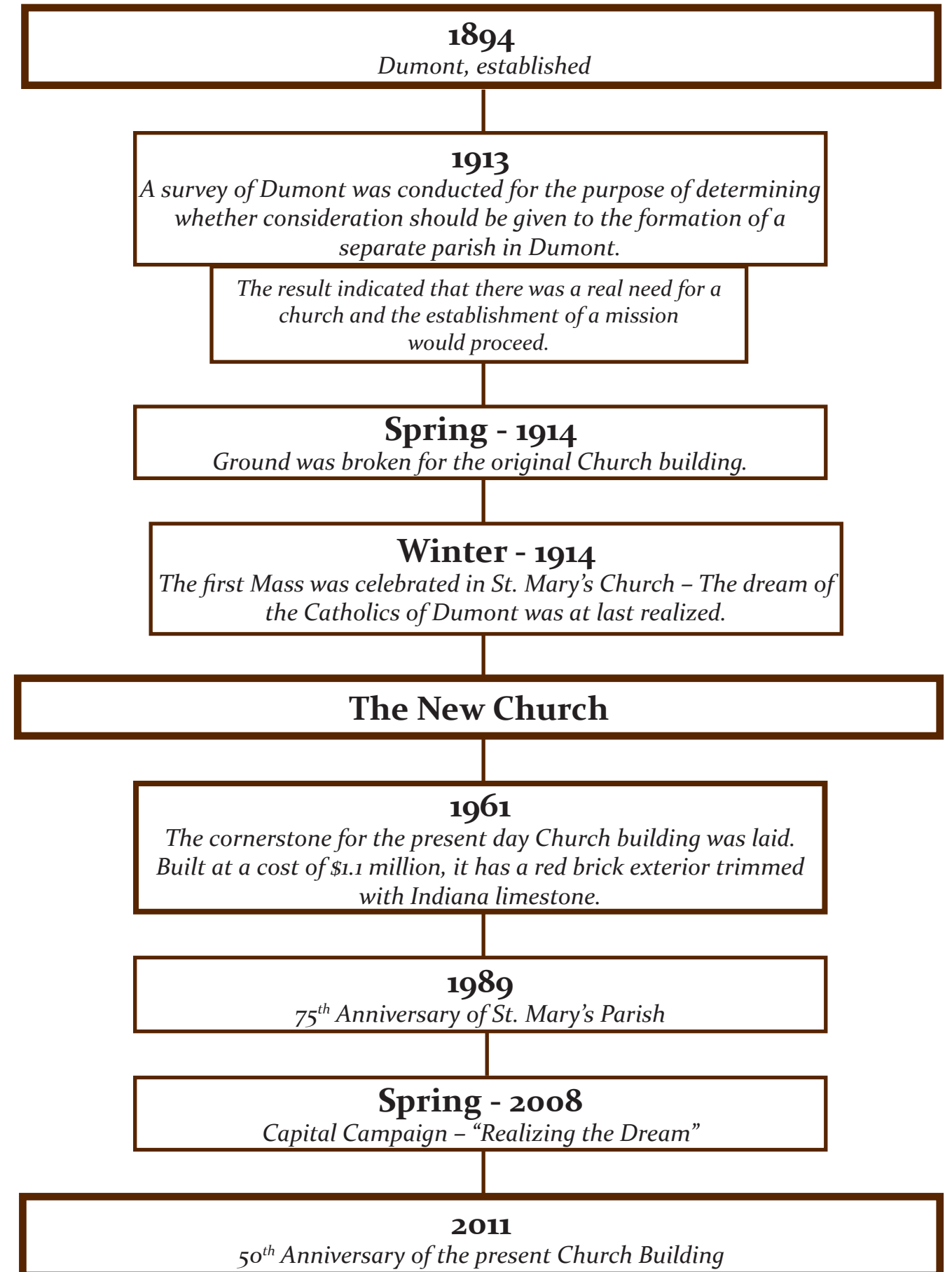
Total Pledge	10% Down Payment	3 Annual Payments	12 Quarterly Payments	Suggested 36 Month Payments
\$100,000	\$10,000	\$30,000	\$7,500	\$2,500
\$50,000	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$3,750	\$1,250
\$25,000	\$2,500	\$7,500	\$1,875	\$625
\$20,000	\$2,000	\$6,000	\$1,500	\$500
\$15,000	\$1,500	\$4,500	\$1,125	\$375
\$10,000	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$750	\$250
\$7,500	\$750	\$2,250	\$562.50	\$188
\$5,000	\$500	\$1,500	\$375	\$125
\$4,000	\$400	\$1,200	\$300	\$100
\$3,000	\$300	\$900	\$225	\$75

Your Commitment...

We are asking our entire parish family to consider a minimum pledge over the next 36 months of \$3,000. The pledge would be a sacrifice of a little more than \$2 a day in order to ensure a promising future for St. Mary's Parish, and does not pose a burden for most parishioners.

When reviewed further, the amount is similar to what many parishioners pay each month for cable television.

St. Mary's History





Case Statement

“I rejoiced when I heard them say,
‘Let us go to the house of the Lord.’” (Psalm 122)

In the year 2011, our parish will commemorate the 50th anniversary of our church building. Since the church was built in 1961, time and weather have deteriorated the grounds and buildings. In addition, the Second Vatican Council awakened in the Church a new understanding of how we worship as a faith community. When we consider all of these, we are looking to observe this milestone in our parish history through needed restoration to our buildings and grounds and some liturgical renovation in our church.

Buildings and Grounds

- Repair the recurring leaks/cracks in all areas of the church and rectory.
- Replace the back-up boiler in our school building and repair pipes in the school heating system as well.
- Replace segments of the church air-conditioning unit which are above the church ceiling.
- Repave all parking lots.
- Replace the fencing around the perimeter of church property.
- Look into an elevator for the disabled that will allow them access to both the lower and upper churches.
- Clean our school gymnasium walls and replace window curtains.
- Do extensive landscaping in the front of the church.

Church Renovation

- Move the baptismal font from the sanctuary area into the main body of the church and create a new baptismal font space.
- Re-furbish the church pews.
- Upgrade completely the church sound system.
- If possible, create a new ambo (pulpit) and baptismal font space from the existing altar rail.
- If possible, consider moving the altar closer to the congregation.
- If possible, renovate the lower church into a smaller space for daily Mass and use remaining space for a large gathering room.
- If possible, consider moving the organ from the loft to the music ministry area.

Campaign Goal: \$1,000,000

50th Anniversary Prayer Garden

In an effort to recognize the families and individuals who make a sacrifice to our “Realizing the Dream” Campaign effort, we will create a 50th Anniversary Prayer Garden where the participants to this campaign effort will be recognized for challenging themselves to the following giving levels:

Foundation Gifts

For families or individuals who wish to make a gift to the campaign of \$20,000 or more, their names would be gratefully displayed as **Founders of our Campaign.**

Patron Gifts

For those families or individuals who wish to make a gift to the campaign of \$10,000-\$19,999, their names would be gratefully displayed as **Patrons of our Campaign.**

Benefactor Gifts

For those families or individuals who wish to make a gift to the campaign of \$5,000-\$9,999, their names would be gratefully displayed as **Benefactors of our Campaign.**

Donor Gifts

For those families or individuals who wish to make a gift to the campaign of \$3,000-\$4,999, their names would be gratefully displayed as **Friends of our Campaign.**

