

The Heart of Bethlehem

NEWSLETTER

—February 2026—



SACRED HEART of JESUS

CATHOLIC CHURCH

∞ Bethlehem • Founded 1833 ∞

Sacred Heart Parish & School,

We sincerely appreciate you taking the time to complete our survey once more. We have carefully considered all the valuable feedback provided and have implemented changes to address as many of your concerns as possible. The final plan for the school addition will be presented at the town hall meeting on **February 28th at 9:30am** in the Sacred Heart Hall.

What will happen to the current Parish Center?

At this time, our primary focus will remain exclusively on the school addition. The school addition is deemed necessary, and the parish center can be addressed at a later date.

How much will the addition cost?

Our budget for this addition is 2.9 million dollars. The Heart of Bethlehem diligently sought the most economical price to ensure ample space for Sacred Heart to continue its educational and Catholic mission for many future generations. We are committed to maintaining low costs throughout the entirety of the project.

Why does Sacred Heart Schools NEED this addition?

Sacred Heart has been operating with limited space for several years. The mobile unit was initially intended as a temporary solution to address the lack of available space. This mobile unit is presently in continuous use throughout the day, which suggests a persistent need for additional room. Furthermore, the preschool and kindergarten classes currently share the basement facilities. The combined increase in noise levels is becoming problematic for the students. In addition to this, the frequent trips up and down the stairs for these young students to access the restroom facilities are proving to be quite challenging for both staff and students alike.

The workspaces provided for staff are quite compact, restricted, and not conducive to the increasing workload associated with operating a school. Sacred Heart has achieved its high ranking in education due to the exceptional efforts of its staff on behalf of the students. It is essential that they are provided with adequate space to continue their outstanding work. The work of nurturing disciples who grow in knowledge, care deeply for others, and grow in their love of Jesus.

Will this addition lead to a large increase in the number of students at Sacred Heart?

The plan is not to increase Sacred Hearts student numbers but to improve functionality and safety. This addition is designed to accommodate the average number of students Sacred Heart has educated over the last decade, approximately 100 students a year. Currently, 66% of Sacred Heart’s student body consists of parishioners.



New School Addition Plans

←Front of the School-South

Will this addition accomplish all of Heart of Bethlehem goals?

YES! The new plan will relocate all students from the basement and mobile unit to the main floor of the campus. We will have a secure double-door entrance with an office space that will allow staff to work more efficiently and freely. Father will finally have an office within the school.

Enhancing and modernizing the restrooms will facilitate a more efficient daily schedule for the entire school. The preschool will be equipped with a private restroom within the classroom, which is anticipated to be a significant enhancement for our Preschool program.

Survey Results

1. Are you satisfied with the renovations that have been completed to enhance the Sacred Heart campus in the last 3 years?

YES- 120 NO- 1 Unaware-8

2. Do you support a campus expansion that would involve relocating Kindergarten and Preschool from the basement, removing the mobile unit, enhancing restroom facilities within the building to ensure ADA(Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance for all age groups and establishing a unified campus? (Option "A")

YES-125 NO-4

3. If you responded YES to question 2, do you support the relocation of the parish office into the school addition, provided it has secure and independent access separate from the school?

Yes-97 NO-29

Thank you Sacred Heart for your wonderful feedback!!

Mark Your Calendars for a Town Hall Meeting

We invite you to join us for coffee and a Q&A session on **February 28th at 9:30 AM** in Sacred Heart Hall!

The Heart of Bethlehem committee is excited to present the new school addition plans. Based on your feedback, we have adjusted these plans to address the concerns and needs of our school community. Please join the committee and the Sacred Heart family for a coffee bar as we plan for the future of Sacred Heart School.

We look forward to seeing you there!!!

Soft Donation Pledges

We are continuing to gather data for our presentation of this project to the diocese.

For those who were previously unable to complete the donation section of the survey due to budget uncertainty, we can now confirm the project budget is \$2.9 million. We hope this information assists in your decision-making. Once you have determined your contribution, please submit a new survey using the QR code provided and include your donation details.



If you have not yet had the opportunity to complete the survey, we would greatly appreciate it if you could do so now.

Thank you!

Contact us at:

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