

The Heart of Bethlehem

NEWSLETTER

—March 2026—

Sacred Heart Parish & School,

Where are we now?

The projects completed since 2022 prioritized **critically needed infrastructure and upgrades to our existing school building**. We are excited to now focus on our most ambitious project yet: **a four-classroom addition that will expand and connect the school and gym into a safer, more secure campus for all our students**. The new classrooms will allow our preschool and kindergarten students to move out of the basement into classrooms designed to meet their unique needs, create dedicated spaces for Special Education services, and optimize our current administrative spaces. The proposed campus expansion will **build on the legacy of the past while ensuring a quality Catholic education remains available to future generations**.

Why Soft Pledges are Important

"Soft pledges" are important because they give the people at the parish and Diocesan level clarity before making major commitments. They are not legally binding promises—but they are serious indicators of intent and generosity.

They Measure Real Readiness—Excitement is wonderful—but soft pledges show whether enthusiasm translates into actual financial support. They reveal whether the parish is truly ready to fund the project. Soft pledges empower the parish to confidently request a Capital Campaign from a financially vigilant Diocese. Soft pledges turn hope into measurable reality. They help answer the crucial question:

"Can we truly afford this—and can we do it responsibly?"

They Protect the Parish—Before finalizing a written letter to the bishop, Father Jeff needs reasonable assurance the project is financially attainable. Soft pledges help avoid overextending the parish, creating false hope for the people of Sacred Heart, and wasting the bishop's valuable time.

They Strengthen Leadership Confidence—When soft pledges demonstrate strong support, it allows Fr. Jeff to move forward confidently, including writing to the bishop with credible evidence that the parish can responsibly fund the project.

They Clarify the Scope—If pledges come in lower than hoped, plans can and must be adjusted.

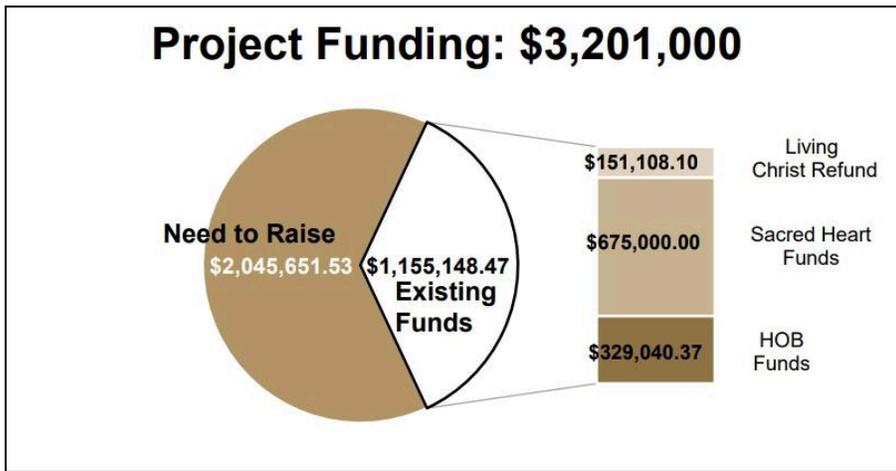
They Encourage Shared Ownership—Soft pledges invite parishioners to move from "observer" to "partner." They create investment—not just financially, but spiritually and emotionally—in the future of the parish.

Ways to Submit your Soft Pledge

Be on the look out for a mailing coming to your home. Hard copies can be mailed back or dropped in the collection basket. To submit electronically you can visit Sacred Heart website or scan the QR code. Please only submit one per family. It must also have your name on it to count as a verified soft pledge.

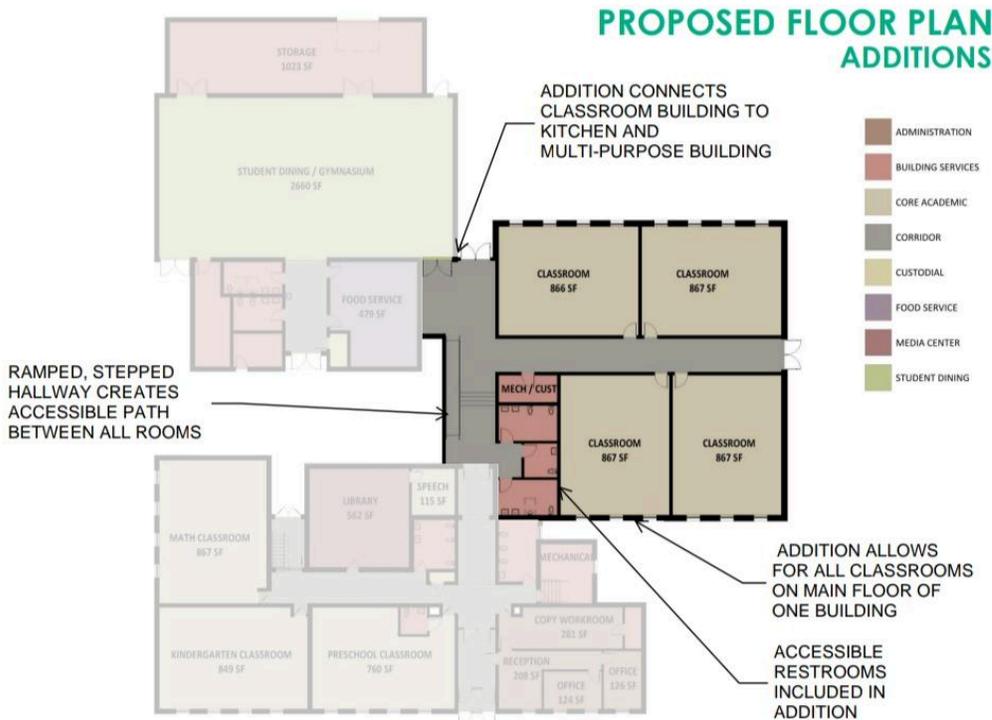


PLEASE SUBMIT BEFORE MARCH 29,2026



Probable Cost - Budget

New Construction	- \$2,200,000
Modification Allowance	- \$400,000
Soft Cost	- \$310,000
Total	\$2,910,000
Add 10% Dioceses's Contingency	
Total =	\$3,201,000



BUILDING FUTURES, RAISING SAINTS

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