

ST. JOHN PARISH, LEOPOLD, MISSOURI

PARISHIONER SURVEY ON THE POSSIBLE SALE OR DISPOSITION OF PARISH PROPERTIES

Purpose of the Survey. The parish is seeking the opinions of parishioners regarding the possible dispossession of certain parish properties. The local public school has been using the former parish elementary school, school grounds, and bus parking area for several years and has expressed interest in purchasing these properties. The school has also expressed interest in purchasing the parish office building, which is located some distance from the church. This survey is intended to gather honest and prayerful opinions of the faithful.

History of Leopold School

Construction of the current Leopold elementary school began in the late 1940's and was completed in the early 1950's with donated labor from the parishioners. Since 1958, Leopold Public School District and St. John's (which owns the elementary building) have worked together to ensure that the building was available for the parish (such as PSR classes), as well as normal school use.

Since approximately 1953, the Leopold R-111 School District has utilized certain property and facilities belonging to St. John Parish, Leopold, including the elementary school building, softball field, and the property presently used as the School District's bus parking lot. The School District's use of these properties has historically been pursuant to an arrangement with the Parish under which the School District paid a nominal amount of monthly rent to the Parish.

The longstanding use of these properties by the School District has resulted in an established relationship between the School District and the Parish concerning the use and maintenance of the facilities and property.

On September 24, 2025, Mr. Britt, then Superintendent of the Leopold R-111 School District, submitted a written letter to the Pastor of St. John Parish, Leopold, expressing the School District's interest in purchasing certain property and buildings owned by the Parish. The School District proposed to purchase for the total sum of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) the following properties and improvements:

1. The elementary school building;
2. The softball field;
3. The property presently utilized as the School District's bus parking lot; and
4. The present parish office building, together with the real property upon which the parish building is situated.

The School District's request and proposed purchase have been considered and discussed during several meetings of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Finance Committee. As part of the Parish's consideration of the proposed transaction, an appraisal of the buildings and real property was conducted by Dockins Valuation Company of Cape Girardeau, Missouri. The appraisal was obtained to provide an independent valuation of the property and improvements and to assist the Parish and its governing authorities in evaluating the School District's proposed purchase price.

Following the departure of Mr. Britt and the appointment of Dana Beussink as the new Superintendent of the Leopold R-111 School District, the new Superintendent Beussink submitted an additional written letter on July 3, 2026 to the Pastor, Parish Council and the Finance Committee expressing the School District's continued interest in the proposed acquisition of the property. As you know, any potential sale of the parish property should be subject to appropriate legal and ecclesiastical review and approval.

The parish council and the finance council have been discussing four possible options for this scenario.

- A. The church could sell the elementary school building, softball field, bus parking area, and church office to the school.
- B. The church could retain the elementary building, and sell the softball field, bus parking, and church office building.
- C. The church could sell only the bus parking and church office.
- D. The church could decline to sell any property to the school.

PART I —General information

1. How long have you been associated with St. John Parish?

- ☐ Less than 5 years
- ☐ 5–10 years
- ☐ 11–20 years
- ☐ More than 20 years
- ☐ Lifelong member
- ☐ Other: _____

2. How frequently do you participate in Mass at St. John Parish?

- ☐ Every weekend
- ☐ Almost every weekend
- ☐ Occasionally
- ☐ Rarely

3. Do you or members of your family have a personal connection with the parish elementary school?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- If yes: ☐ I attended ☐ My children attended ☐ My parents attended ☐ I taught/worked there ☐ Other: _____

4. Are you aware that the maintenance cost of elementary school building and the parish office building will be a huge financial liability for the parish in future?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Somewhat aware

Part 11: Option A : The Church could sell the elementary school building, softball field, bus parking area, and church office to the school.

- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree

Part 111: Option B- The church should retain the elementary building, and sell the softball field, bus parking, and church office building.

- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree

Part IV: Option C: The church could sell only the bus parking and church office.

- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree

Part V: Option D: The church could decline to sell any property to the school.

- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Disagree

5. If these properties were sold, what would be your primary concern?

- ☐ Loss of parish property
- ☐ Loss of historical/parish heritage
- ☐ Financial implications

- ☐ Future needs of the parish
- ☐ Impact on parish ministries
- ☐ No major concern
- ☐ Other: _____

06. Considering the elementary school, school grounds, bus parking lot, and parish office building together, which statement best reflects your opinion?

- ☐ Strongly support selling all of these properties
- ☐ Generally support selling these properties
- ☐ Undecided / need more information
- ☐ Generally oppose selling these properties
- ☐ Strongly oppose selling these properties

Part VI: Parish office

07. The parish office building is located away from the church. The current parish office presents several significant accessibilities, location, parking, weather-related, and building-condition concerns that affect its suitability for continued use as the administrative office of the Parish. Taken together, these circumstances support the Parish's consideration of whether the current parish office remains an appropriate, accessible, safe, and economically practical location for parish administrative operations. Therefore, what is your opinion about selling it to the public school?

- ☐ Strongly support
- ☐ Support
- ☐ Undecided
- ☐ Oppose
- ☐ Strongly oppose

08. If the parish office building is sold, should the parish establish another suitable location for parish offices?

- ☐ Definitely yes
- ☐ Probably yes
- ☐ Undecided
- ☐ Probably no
- ☐ Definitely no

09. If a new parish office is needed, what would you consider most important?

- ☐ Location close to the church
- ☐ Adequate office space
- ☐ Accessibility for parishioners
- ☐ Adequate parking
- ☐ Reasonable cost
- ☐ Space for parish ministries and staff
- ☐ Other: _____

10. If the properties are sold, what should be done with the proceeds? Please rank your priorities 1 (highest) to 5 (lowest).

- ☐ ___ New parish facilities
- ☐ ___ Church/rectory maintenance and repairs
- ☐ ___ Parish ministries and religious education
- ☐ ___ Parish savings/investment for future needs
- ☐ ___ Other: _____

11. Before a final decision, what additional information would you like the parish to provide?

- ☐ Proposed sale price for each property
- ☐ Independent property appraisal report

- ☐ Legal/diocesan information
- ☐ Financial impact
- ☐ Plans for replacement parish office
- ☐ Long-term parish property needs
- ☐ Other: _____

12. How important should future costs of maintaining, repairing, renovating, and insuring the present office building be in deciding whether to retain or dispose of it?

- ☐ Very important — anticipated costs are a major reason to consider disposing of the building
- ☐ Important — maintenance costs should be an important factor
- ☐ Somewhat important — consider them along with other factors
- ☐ Not very important — retain the building regardless of future costs
- ☐ Not important at all
- ☐ Need more information about present condition and anticipated maintenance costs

13. If significant repairs or renovations will be required in the coming years, should that be a reason to consider selling or otherwise disposing of the building?

- ☐ Definitely yes
- ☐ Probably yes
- ☐ Undecided
- ☐ Probably no
- ☐ Definitely no

14. After considering the information in this survey, which statement best expresses your opinion about the present parish office building and property?

- ☐ Retain both building and property
- ☐ Retain property but consider disposing of building
- ☐ Renovate and continue using building
- ☐ Sell both building and property
- ☐ Lease building/property rather than sell
- ☐ Need additional information
- ☐ Other: _____

15. What are your three most important considerations in deciding whether the parish should sell or retain these properties?

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Please rate the importance of each factor:

Factor	Very Important	Important	Somewhat Important	Not Important
Financial benefit to parish	☐	☐	☐	☐
Preservation of parish property	☐	☐	☐	☐
Historical significance	☐	☐	☐	☐
Future parish needs	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cost of maintaining properties	☐	☐	☐	☐
Location of parish offices	☐	☐	☐	☐
Relationship with public school	☐	☐	☐	☐
Availability of alternative parish facilities	☐	☐	☐	☐
Long-term financial stability	☐	☐	☐	☐

16. Additional comments, concerns, suggestions, or recommendations for the Pastor and parish leadership:

CERTIFICATION OF OPINION

I understand that this survey is intended to gather parishioner opinions and that any final decision concerning parish property will be made in accordance with Church law, diocesan policies, and the appropriate consultation and approval processes.

☐ I have completed this survey prayerfully and to the best of my knowledge.

Optional Name: _____ Signature: _____

Date: _____

Thank you for your prayerful participation and thoughtful response.

Important Note: Please return the completed survey questionnaire no later than October 20th and place it in the designated basket provided in the vestibule of the Church