

# FAQ

second in a series



## *Why do we need a capital campaign?*

Recently, the Best of Lawrence magazine recognized St. John as one of the city's best places to worship. This was the result of this parish's commitment to provide parishioners with the tools needed to grow in faith and its desire to continue to be a loving, welcoming community. The *Preserving our Past... Building our Future!* Capital Campaign is another example of the parish fulfilling an obligation to its people. Currently we lack the space and facilities needed to ensure we continue to meet the demands associated with advancing our mission. A capital campaign is the only way we can raise the funding to address our needs.

## *Why is a new gymnasium necessary?*

The current gym is not a regulation-sized facility. It cannot host a game and practicing there is a challenge. There is no spectator seating for any event, and its overuse makes it difficult to coordinate activities. Thirty years ago this facility was fine, but over time student needs have changed. And please note, the benefits of a new gymnasium extend to the parish. Parishioners face a constant dilemma searching for space to host large meetings and events. The new gymnasium and the performing arts/event center (the old gym) will solve that problem serving as a venue for meetings, receptions and parties.

## *Why do we need more office and meeting space?*

St. John operates 63 ministries with the help of 11 staff and numerous volunteers. Some staff share space in a single office which complicates meetings and conversations. Our ministries also require meeting and work space. When staff is unable to share their work areas, volunteers must make other arrangements. This can be inconvenient and limits the effectiveness of our ministries. Moreover, five of the offices are converted porch space, which makes heating and cooling very difficult.

## *A new gymnasium may help the school, but how does this campaign help the parish?*

This project helps ensure the continued life of our parish. A growing, nationwide concern in the Catholic community is the decline of the older, urban churches. Many are slowly disappearing as younger families leave to join the attractive new churches in the suburbs. St. John has avoided that trend in large part because our school attracts young families into our parish. Our support of a quality, Catholic education is rewarded with committed families helping to make our parish diverse and vibrant.

## *What can I do to help?*

The St. John community needs your assistance.

Please consider helping in these ways:

- Pray for the success of the campaign.
- Volunteer. We need partners to help us explain the facts and the need for this project to the rest of the St. John community. If you could share a small amount of your time to help guarantee a vibrant future for St. John School and parish, please contact Samantha Romero at the parish office, **843-0109** or by email at [sromero@saint-johns.net](mailto:sromero@saint-johns.net).
- Begin to think about a sacrificial pledge you could provide over three-years to assure the future of St. John School and to improve our parish offices.

