Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the parish conducting this campaign?

The parish has grown significantly in recent years, and the Parish of St. Ann is moving forward with two ambitious projects to better serve our community. The first part is the construction of a new, multi-function Parish Center on the grounds of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. The center will include a social hall with flexible meeting space, a stage, a professional kitchen, and a dedicated food pantry for the *Society of St. Vincent de Paul* ministry. It will also provide welcoming space for parish gatherings, celebrations, ministry meetings, and additional Masses during future renovations to St. Ann Church. The second part will renovate and beautify the current St. Ann Church building, which is now 54 years old, through exterior and interior improvements and enhanced accessibility. Together, these projects will help St. Ann remain an inviting place of sacred worship for generations to come.

What is the financial goal of the campaign?

We are estimating project costs at approximately $7 million. However, the *final campaign goal is still being confirmed* as project details are in progress of being developed and designed. This is an ambitious effort that will require support from every parish family. For that reason, we are meeting with as many households as possible, inviting each family to prayerfully consider a meaningful stretch gift.

What is the duration of the campaign?

The active fundraising period began in August 2026 and is expected to conclude by the end of November 2026.

Will every parish household be approached as part of this campaign?

Yes. The campaign is using a strategic, phased approach so that every parish family receives a personal visit and/or request to support the campaign at the appropriate time. While families will give at different levels, every prayerful and sacrificial gift is important to the campaign's success.

What effect will this campaign have on our regular annual giving?

Regular collections support the parish's ongoing operating expenses, and that support must continue throughout the capital campaign. We are asking parish families to consider a campaign gift that is above and beyond their ordinary annual giving.

Why am I asked to make a pledge instead of a one-time gift?

The success of the campaign will depend largely on pledges payable over three years. Pledges allow parish families to consider a level of support that may not be possible through a one-time gift. They also help the Parish of St. Ann to plan responsibly for the future by providing a clearer picture of the funds expected over the pledge period.

Why is each donor asked to complete a pledge form for gifts and pledges?

Each donor is asked to complete a pledge form so that gifts can be recorded, credited, and acknowledged accurately. Pledge forms also help the parish maintain complete records and send payment reminders according to the schedule each donor selects.

Why are we asked to consider a specific gift amount?

A suggested gift amount is provided for each family based on past generosity to the parish and the level of support needed to achieve the campaign goal. *We do not know your financial* circumstances*, but we do know* the *needs* of our parish. Our hope is that a specific suggested amount, payable over three years, will help your family prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift.

Is an initial payment required?

No. An initial payment is not required. However, many donors choose to begin their pledge payments right away with an initial payment of 10% or more. Early payments help the Parish of St. Ann to begin campaign projects sooner.

What if I cannot or choose not to give the requested amount?

Giving is a personal decision, and every family's situation is unique. Each family is asked to prayerfully consider the suggested gift amount and make a deliberate, sacrificial commitment that is right for them.

What if I cannot fulfill my pledge?

Your pledge is not legally binding. If you make a pledge and later experience financial hardship, please contact the parish office to explain your situation. Other arrangements may be possible, such as extending the pledge period or reducing the total pledge amount.

How will I know that my pledge form has been received, and will I get a receipt and reminders?

The parish will record each pledge form and process payments for deposit. After a pledge or gift is received, an acknowledgement letter will be sent. For multi-year pledges, the parish will also send reminder letters several weeks before scheduled payments and annual statements for tax purposes.

In addition to my gift, what else can I do to help the campaign?

Volunteer leaders are essential to the campaign's success. They help share the campaign message with fellow parishioners and invite others to join their families in support. If you are interested in volunteering, please speak with your visitor or contact Campaign Consultant Grace Liang at gliang@ccsfundraising.com.

Can I give a gift other than cash?

Yes. Several giving options may be available, including appreciated stock, Qualified Charitable Distributions from an IRA, and donor-advised fund grants. Some options may offer tax advantages, depending on your circumstances.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (IRA Charitable Rollover)

- Available to donors age 70½ and older with a traditional IRA.
- Transfers are made directly from the IRA to the charity and are excluded from taxable income.
- May be helpful for donors who wish to reduce taxable income or satisfy required minimum distributions.
- **Process**
    - Provide the IRA custodian the following information so they can cut the check made out directly to the church (not to the donor):
        - Parish of St. Ann, 691 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930 — EIN: 51-0116060
    - The church will provide a written acknowledgment stating the amount received and that no goods or services were provided in exchange. This lets the donor report the gift properly as a QCD (excluded from income) on their 1040, rather than as a regular IRA distribution.

DAF (Donor-Advised Fund)

- Donors may receive a deduction when they fund the donor-advised fund, rather than when a grant is distributed.
- This option may be useful for donors who want to secure a current-year tax benefit while recommending grants over time.
- **Process:**
    - Provide the DAF sponsor (e.g., Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable) with the following information to recommend a grant to the parish:
        - Parish of St. Ann, 691 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930 — EIN: 51-0116060
    - Note: Because the tax deduction was already taken when the DAF was funded, the church will provide a thank-you rather than a tax-deductible gift acknowledgment.

Appreciated Stock

- Donors may avoid capital gains tax and may be able to deduct the full fair market value of long-term appreciated securities.
- Stock transfers are typically completed within 3-5 business days and are processed through an established procedure overseen by the Diocese of Wilmington. The whole process may take up to two weeks.
- This option may be appropriate for donors who hold long-term appreciated securities and wish to make a gift without first selling the asset.

- **Process:**
    - Instruct your broker or commercial banker to transfer the shares of stock directly into the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington's account at LPL Financial. (Email gliang@ccsfundraising.com for instructions).
        - Account #46246974, DTC #0075.
    - Have your broker send a copy of the transfer instructions to Fritzie Korthas (fkorthas@cdow.org), stating the gift is to be applied to: **Parish of St. Ann's Capital Campaign, Called to Grow · Build · Serve.**
    - LPL Financial will sell the stock and forward the proceeds* to the Diocese's Development Office.
    - Notify cc@stannsbethany.org and gliang@ccsfundraising.com once your broker has initiated the transfer.
    - Fritzie will confirm receipt of funds and notify you once they've been distributed to St. Ann Church.

  *Net proceeds reflect the stock's value at time of sale, minus any commission fees and taxes.

An acknowledgment letter will be provided for gifts made through any of these methods. If you have questions about the different methods of giving, please contact one of the campaign representatives listed below. Please note that the parish does not provide financial or tax advice, and you should consult your financial advisor to determine what may be appropriate for you.

Parish Office

Campaign Email	cc@stannsbethany.org	(302) 539-6449 ext. 103

CCS Campaign Consultant

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