

Saint John Neumann Parish



Forward in Faith

Becoming the best manifestation of Christ's Church that we can be.

Frequently Asked Questions

Volume Two

March 2019

Forward in Faith combines a vision, with a solid plan, developed by parish leaders and members, to proactively grow our parish community and ministry. In June 2018, we released the first in a series of FAQ's related to the Forward in Faith initiatives/projects and related capital campaign. This issue can be found by following the campaign link on SJN's website. In this FAQ volume, we will address questions related to:

1. Project/Campaign Approach Structure and Timeline
2. Progress to Date
3. Next Steps

What is the Forward in Faith project/campaign plan and timeline?

Project Plan/Projected Timeline	Capital Campaign Plan/Projected Timeline
Pre-Planning (Complete) Needs Assessment, Design, Budget, Approvals	Pre-Planning (Complete) Feasibility Study/Approvals
Assemble Team (Complete) Select contractor Recruit Building Committee	Assemble Team (Spring 2018: Complete) Recruit campaign chairs Recruit campaign steering committee
Plan, Learn, Educate (Complete) Recruit Youth Ministry and Columbarium Planning Committees Research Youth Ministry programs Research columbarium costs, design, guidelines Promote search for youth minister	Plan, Learn, Educate (Summer 2018 and throughout) Develop campaign infrastructure (data management, reporting, policies, naming, communication plan, materials) Educate and learn from parishioners what concerns/inspires them
Establish/Strengthen Foundation (Late Spring 2019) Dig and pour foundation for hall, connector and columbarium Build weight bearing walls, install support beams	Establish/Strengthen Foundation (Summer 2018 thru Winter 2019) Invite/welcome early giving to reach 50-60% of goal
Expand Construction (Winter 2019-2020) Install siding and roof, parking upgrades, HVAC, church restrooms, grounds	Expand Invitation to Give (Spring 2019) Invite/welcome giving from entire parish family
Complete Projects (Fall 2020) All construction completed Youth Ministry Program	Complete Campaign (Spring/Summer 2021) Campaign reaches/exceeds goal
Celebration (TBD) Bishop's dedication ceremony	Celebration (Summer 2021) Campaign donor ceremony

What progress has been made over the last few months as related to Forward in Faith projects/initiatives?

Building Improvements – The hall basement has been largely emptied of contents belonging to Cathedral Camp. To compensate the camp for its dislocation from the hall a garage was built on the west side of the property to accommodate the tools and equipment formerly stored in the basement. Once the basement was emptied the old partitions were torn down to ready the large space for transformation into meeting rooms and gathering space. Some interior demolition is underway in the upper hall by volunteers and this will expand to the exterior in the spring. All bids for construction are in and the building committee will be meeting in the middle of March to review all the bids.

Columbarium - The committee has approved a design for the columbarium and has approved using Eickhof Columbaria to manufacture. We have also been granted approval from the Town of Freetown for construction of the columbarium.

Youth Ministry - The committee has interviewed some promising candidates for the role of youth minister and will continue to do so. We are proceeding with two important objectives in mind: to find precisely the right candidate and to ensure our investments in salary and program-related expenses are within the parameters of our parish budget as will be determined by the success of our campaign efforts. We are happy to share the position description with any parishioner who may wish to assist in promoting this exciting opportunity with those in their network.

What is the status of the Forward in Faith Campaign?

Our campaign progress as of **March 1, 2019**:

Goal: \$2,250,000 **% to Goal Reached:** 47.5%

Total Contributed to Date: \$1,069,385

Total # Gifts: 47 individuals, two events, 2018 Lakeside Festival

How have we reached this milestone?

We have reached this milestone through funds raised from our 2018 Lakeside Festival AND early campaign gifts from:

- members of the Campaign Steering Committee who felt it was important to make their own sacrificial gifts before inviting you to consider the same,
- parishioners who, through an e-survey sent to all parishioners during the campaign feasibility study, expressed a strong desire to give more immediately, and
- parishioners who have learned about our vision, through:
 - a series of listening sessions that all parishioners were invited to attend in late 2018.
 - talking with committee members who have been hosting informational gatherings.
 - campaign/project related announcements in our bulletin and at mass.

What has been the range of giving?

We have received early gifts from parishioners ranging from \$25 to \$225,000.

How confident are we that our parish family can help us to bring our vision to life?

The chart on the following page details the levels of giving needed to bring to life our vision of becoming the best manifestation of Christ's Church that we can be. Its projections are based on evaluating thousands of successful campaigns. We are encouraged by the unprecedented level of generosity that members of our parish family have shared as early contributors. Many expressed a strong belief in the significant benefits our vision will offer our present day and future parish families, along with a strong wish to have an equally significant role in ensuring that these benefits are realized.

We are optimistic that others, once they learn more about our vision and plans, will also be inspired to prayerfully discern how they can best support this effort. Also, we are providing a variety of ways in which our parish family can donate to **Forward in Faith**. As a result, many of our early givers have been able to increase their giving beyond what they originally thought possible, while maintaining their same level of giving to our weekly offering. Gifts have included multiple-year pledges, appreciated stock, real estate, and required distributions from Individual Retirement Accounts, just to name a few.

SJN Campaign Solicitation Tracker (Thru 3-1-19)

Gift Needed for \$2,250,000	# of Gifts Needed	# Gifts to Date	Total \$ Committed by Giving Level	Notes
\$225,000	1	1	\$225,000	
\$100,000	3	2	\$200,000	
\$75,000	4	2	\$151,500	includes 2018 Lakeside Festival
\$50,000	8	3	\$150,000	
\$25,000	17	1	\$25,000	
\$10,000	25	21	\$257,750	2 @\$20k, 1 in-kind @ \$20k, 1@ \$18,250, 1@ \$15k, 1@ \$14.5k event: Women's Guild 15@\$10k
\$5,000	35	6	\$27,500	1 @ \$7.5k, 4 @ \$5k
<\$5,000	Many	14	\$32,635	1 @ \$100; 2@\$250; 1@ \$1,535 (event); 2@ \$4.5k 4@ \$3k, 3 @ \$2.5k 2@ \$1k
Total Gifts to Date	Total Raised to Date	Goal	% of Goal	Notes
50	\$1,069,385	\$2,250,000	47.5%	

What can we expect from the campaign in the coming months?

Discernment

We know that, for most, discerning the right gift to **Forward in Faith** will be a spiritual process, as well as a financial one. Together we will reflect on what it means to be good stewards of God's gifts, knowing these gifts will be used to grow our faith and ministry. We will help you in this discernment through:

- Listening sessions and informational gatherings hosted by committee members and other parishioners
- Ongoing project and campaign communications/updates
- Personal visits
- Creative and flexible giving opportunities

Throughout Lent, we will invite our parish family to pray for guidance as we discern how God wants you to use your resources to support **Forward in Faith**.

Campaign Launch

We will officially launch our **Forward in Faith Campaign** the weekend of May 11 - 12 in the Narthex following each Mass. At this time, we will:

- share inspirational stories related to our vision and progress to date,
- unveil a model of the planned improvements to Neumann Hall, new church hall connector and columbarium,
- unveil a barometer which will be updated to show our funds raised to date,
- share details on our approach to inviting your support of **Forward in Faith**,
- distribute campaign information, and
- elicit feedback and answer questions.

What if I am ready to give now?

Thank you for your interest in being an early giver! You may contact Diane Whelan at 508-763-2240. Diane will provide information and resources to ensure your gift intentions are honored according to your wishes.