



Saint Stephen Cathedral Capital Campaign

“Renewal and Expansion: Building a Brighter Future”

Information Session

Presented by Eddy McFarland & Dr. Steven Roby
October 2026

Welcome to Saint Stephen Cathedral Capital Campaign Information Session

Our Campaign Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You with humble hearts, seeking Your wisdom and strength as we embark upon the Renewal and Expansion: Building a Brighter Future Campaign. Guide our words, actions and decisions so that they may reflect Your truth, justice, and love. Inspire us with courage and clarity. Help us discern Your will in every challenge, to act with integrity, and to trust in Your divine providence. May our work bear fruit for the salvation of souls and the glory of God.

Saint Stephen, pray for us

Opening Remarks - Father John Thomas

General Presentation - Eddy McFarland

Organ Presentation - Dr. Steven Roby

Question and Answer Session

On behalf of the Parish Council, Finance Council, Parish Staff, and our Priests we want to thank you for making today a priority

The Vision

Maintain, update, and build facilities that serve the spiritual, educational, and personal religious needs of our parish for generations to come.

Our Mission

The Catholic Community of Saint Stephen Cathedral serves as the Mother Church for the Diocese of Owensboro to welcome, evangelize, and worship in the name of Jesus Christ.

Values

Stewardship: "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." 1 Peter 4:10

Our Facilities: "Go up into the hill-country, bring timber, and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and be honored, says the Lord." Haggai 1:8

Saint Stephen Parish History

- Saint Stephen was established in 1839
- Our Second church building was built in 1856
- Saint Stephen Cathedral as we know it today was built in 1926

Renovation History

- 1970's the church underwent a major interior renovation
- 2000's Preservation for the Next Generation - replaced the shingle roof with tile and performed tuckpointing (structural masonry repairs)
- 2012 Restoration and Renewal - focused on the interior of the church
- 2018 Keeping Safe and Secure - rebuilding of the front porch and enhanced campus security
- 2026 Renewal and Expansion: Building a Brighter Future

Proverbs 24:3–4 – "By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches."

Saint Stephen SHINES

Statistics in 2026 thus far

- 593 Families, 29 new families, a 5% increase in registered families
- Sacraments
 - 24 Baptisms
 - 36 First Communion - children and OCIA
 - 35 Confirmed - children and OCIA
- 13 in OCIA
- 44 Children in Faith Formation/Children's Liturgy of the Word
- 54 Youth involved in Youth Ministry
- 15 small faith sharing groups
- 58 Opportunities for ministry involvement
- 30+ homebound parishioners visited with Holy Communion weekly
- 100 hours of Adoration for our 100th Dedication Anniversary

Project Vision and Timeline

Our capital campaign is about more than maintaining a building. It is about preserving the beauty, dignity, and history of a 100-year-old church while ensuring that Saint Stephen Cathedral continues to serve our parish and community for the next 100 years.

We have divided our campaign into two broad categories: actual and conceptual. This distinction helps us prioritize the work that must be completed to protect our facilities while also considering the improvements that will enhance our worship, fellowship, and ministries.

**Exterior Windows and
Cathedral Preservation**

**Interior Window Restoration
and Cathedral Improvements**

**Rectory
Renovation**

**Organ &
Choir Loft Renovation**

**Office &
Parish Hall**

Parking

How we see our Church



Psalm 27:4: "One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple."

The Reality of What it Looks Like



Exterior Windows and Building Preservation

As a century-old building, our Cathedral requires a different approach to preservation than a modern structure. Over time, building materials and maintenance practices have changed. The transition from traditional lead-based oil paints to modern latex paints has affected how older buildings manage moisture, making appropriate exterior protection especially important.

- Waterproofing and sealing the exterior of the building.
- Removing and replacing rotted or deteriorated exterior window wood.
- Securing the windows and ensuring they are properly restored and protected with a storm window type of design over the entire window
- Installing scaffolding around the Cathedral to provide safe access to the work areas.
- Protecting the stained-glass windows throughout the renovation.

Estimated cost: \$1.8MM

**Time Frame: Begin Spring 2027
- Fall of 2027**

Interior Window Restoration and Cathedral Improvements

The second phase of the windows brings us inside of the Cathedral. This project will not begin until the exterior work has had time to verify that all of the repairs are completed to the satisfaction of the Church. We will be watching the repairs as they go from one season to the next ensuring that all expansions and contractions go as expected

- Complete the restoration of the windows inside of the Cathedral
- Repair and Repaint Plaster
- Lighting, Halogen to LED
 - Lower operating cost
 - Longevity of the product
- When considering the lighting take into account the following
 - Currently no need to replace panel
- During this process weekday mass will be held at Blessed Sacrament at 7 and 12:05, the Cathedral will be fully functional for weekend liturgies

Estimated cost: Pending

**Time Frame: Begin Summer 2028 -
Fall of 2028**

Rectory Renovation

As a Church, we have a responsibility to be good stewards not only of our buildings, but also of the priests who dedicate their lives to serving our parish and our faith. We should provide them with a building that is safe, comfortable, fully function, and accessible. The Rectory is more than a place to live, it is where the priests rest, prepare for their ministry, and find a place of peace amid the demands of a life of service. It becomes their home.

- Updating the electrical and plumbing systems.
- Renovating the bedrooms and bathrooms.
- Improving accessibility, including ADA-related accommodations where feasible and required.
- Creating a small chapel for evening prayer and shared worship.
- Removing and replacing the existing garage.
- Improving the overall functionality and condition of the property

Estimated cost: \$610K

Time Frame: Begins when funds are available

Rectory Project



Organ & Choir Loft Renovation

The pipe organ is often called the "heartbeat" or "lungs" of Catholic liturgy, as it does not merely accompany the Mass but actively drives it forward.

Considerations for a Organ Renovation

- Organ build time is measured in years
- Before building, a good faith deposit is required
- Review of the HVAC System for maximum performance on the new instrument

Estimated cost:

New Organ	\$850,000 to \$1,250,000
Gallery Modification	\$80,000 to \$100,000
HVAC upgrades	\$60,000 to \$80,000
Design Consultants	\$5,000 to \$10,000
Estimate Totals	\$995,000 to \$1,440,000

Time Frame: Begins when funds are available
Requires a lead time

Office and Parish Hall

Distance has made daily parish life more difficult. We look forward to returning to the Cathedral in our new temporary office and serving our parish with joy.

Locust Street Office Building

- Building to be demolished
- Asbestos in the interior
- Fire damage
- Need for more functional space

Temporary Parish Office on Sutton Lane

- Met our needs at the time
- Plenty of space
- Excellent property management and care
- Distanced from the church and the parishioners

Coming Soon:

Parish Temporary Office will be located behind the Cathedral on Cedar Street

- Closer to our parish community
- More space for parishioners
- Better location for the food pantry
- Additional apartment for the priest during rectory renovations

Office and Parish Hall

The planning and design of our office building and parish hall depend on answering a fundamental question: Why do we need or want these facilities? As a parish, we must understand why we do what we do and how a new facility can not only support but also advance our mission.

Considerations for a new office and parish hall

- Offices for parish staff, volunteers, and visiting priests
- Educational/meeting spaces for youth and adults
- Outreach Ministry Space (SVdP, Food Pantry, Backpack Ministry)
- Storage and archive space
- Fully operational kitchen for events and activities
- Multi-function areas in the hall
- Ideas we have informally heard...
 - Gathering space for parish functions, meals, meetings, etc.
 - A court - sport activities
 - A walking track

How would the spaces be used? *This should drive our decisions*

How much capacity for a parish hall? *The current Community Center seats around 180*

Elegant or Functional? *A destination for an event, for our youth, or anyone looking to enjoy the space*

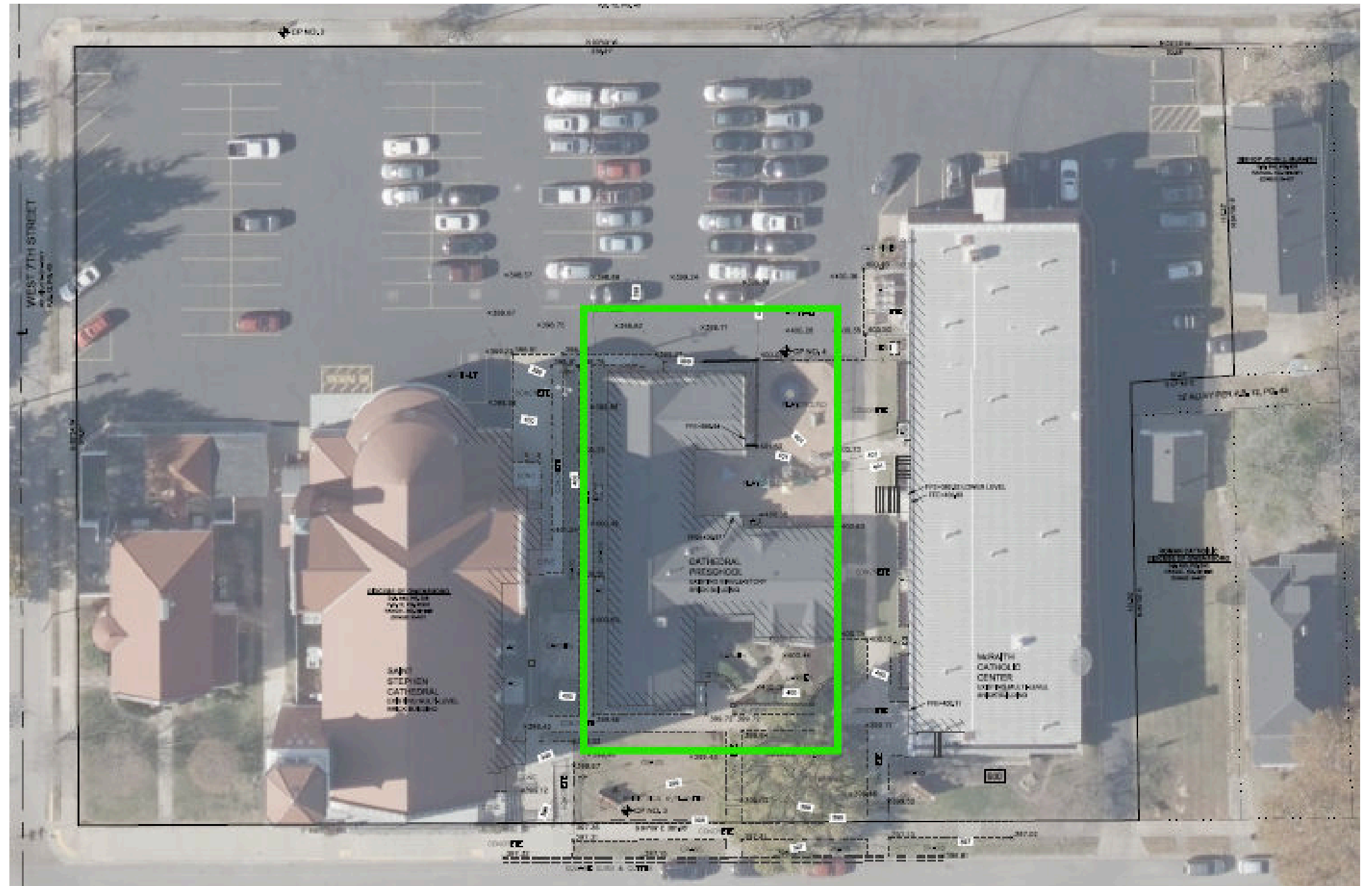
Parking at the Cathedral

Current Parking

- 82 Spots for a space for over 400 Seats
- We can park at local businesses and have street parking

Issues to Address

- The new office could take up some spaces
- No covered drop off for ease and safety



Thank you all for attending today and listening to what we believe will aid us in our mission.

Next Steps

- Gather parish feedback and questions.
- Email questions, comments, or concerns to office@sscobo.org.
- Compile campaign and design questions for group responses.
- Complete the forms required for diocesan approval.
- Meet with the Diocese Building Committee.
- Form a Capital Campaign Committee to:
 - Listen to parish needs.
 - Lead subgroups.
 - Support fundraising and information gathering.
 - Keep the campaign organized and moving forward.
- Begin fundraising.
- Thank you for helping advance our mission