

2014 Capital Campaign Case Statement

The mission of Saint Mary Parish Williamston is to be a spirit-filled community who seeks to know, worship and serve Jesus Christ. Through our love, prayer, encouragement, and testimony we teach, support and heal each other as we carry His ministry into the world.

Heavenly Father:

Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes through which He moves compassion on this world.

Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good.

Yours are the hands with which He blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes. You are His body.

ST. TERESA OF AVILA

Why does St. Mary Parish need a Capital Campaign now?

St. Mary Parish Williamston has a long and vibrant history as a parish since its founding in the 1850's. Nine generations of St. Mary families have built three churches, a cemetery, a rectory, a school, and an activity center to provide a foundation from which to grow our faith community. This legacy is witness of the intense faith and love that the parish community has in Jesus Christ. We are called today in 2014 to bear witness once again and build for the future.

St. Mary Parish has long-standing debt with the Diocese of Lansing from the last building project in 1995 when asbestos was removed, the Activity Center was built, classrooms and a library were added to the school, St. Joseph Hall was renovated, the rectory was sold, and a condominium was purchased to house our pastor.

Look around today and you can see that there are other facility needs at the parish- a new boiler, resurfacing the parking lot, fixing and cleaning the pews.

The last time, the parish actively solicited funds from the congregation to retire our debt was in 2001 during the tenure of Fr. Tom Thompson. Before Father Clark left, the Finance Committee agreed the timing was necessary to move forward on a capital campaign. Members of the Finance Committee prepared a proposal that was presented to the Bishop at the end of 2013. The Diocese agreed with the plan to allow St. Mary to pay the remaining \$500,000 in principal over three years with no interest and create a "rainy day" fund to prepare for the replacement of the two boilers and other needs.