

# ***Legacy of Faith & Light***

**A CASE STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF  
FACILITY EXPANSION AND ENHANCEMENT**

**St. Cecilia Parish  
Ames, Iowa**

## Introduction

The history of St. Cecilia Parish dates back to 1899. While facilities and faces have changed throughout our proud history, one thing remains the same: our commitment to Christ, to one another, and to the betterment of our community.

As a result, St. Cecilia Parish today is an active and vibrant community composed of over 1,300 households. Led by a dedicated pastor, staff, and volunteers, there are various ways that people of all ages can participate in our church's spiritual, educational, service, social ministries, and activities.

Yet, despite our strong heritage of activity and accomplishment, some significant challenges remain.

## Our Needs

A hallmark throughout our history has been the active involvement of parishioners to meet the needs of the day. While we are proud of our past, there are many immediate issues facing our parish today. Our current needs include the following areas:

- **Renewed Facilities.** The existing church, which will be 50 years old in 2024, has evident structural and functional problems that require correction. Any major remodel work also requires us to meet current building codes rather than the codes that were in place at the time the original church was built.
  - Our air handler is original to the church. If it were to fail, we would not have adequate heating or cooling. Our chiller was a used unit when purchased in the 1990s, so we do not know how old it is.
  - We have had leaks in our roof over the years, creating unsightly peeling and stains that cannot be easily repaired or removed because of the asbestos in the ceiling.
  - Our HVAC system circulates underground and, with the high water table and the probability of water in our ductwork, the circulated air is not of the highest quality.
  - Pews and carpet bear the signs of many years of use.
  - The lighting and sound system are inadequate to provide a functional, inclusive experience for everyone who gathers with us.
  - We have no fire suppression system in the worship space itself, which is a standard recommendation by the fire marshal.
- **Liturgical Updates.** Our current worship space is outdated in many regards and doesn't incorporate recommended liturgical design guidelines provided by the National

Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Archdiocese of Dubuque. These guidelines are designed to enhance the celebration of the Eucharist as a single body, with the presider and assembly united in faith, not simply as individuals who happen to be in the same place at the same time. The design guidelines also help to enhance the celebration of the sacrament of baptism and of funeral Masses.

## **Our Plans**

To address these needs, a group of dedicated parishioners and staff have worked over the last few years to develop a long-term, comprehensive facility plan for the renewal of the church. In working through this comprehensive process, assessments were done on the current building and consideration was given to site limitations. The pastoral council established the project objectives of renewing the facility, increasing natural light, and enhancing beauty within the church. Countless committee meetings were then held to analyze the structural requirements and liturgical and visual enhancements that will meet these objectives.

We are now ready to take the next step which will enable us to meet our current and future needs.

This exciting plan will result in *a renovated church* that will include:

- Installing a modern, energy-efficient HVAC system, improving air ventilation and quality
- Raising the center ceiling within the church and adding more windows to bring in natural light and vertical space
- Replacing the dark paneling and incorporating sacred art and furnishings
- Improving handicap accessibility throughout the church to ensure safe entry and access for all
- Enhancing acoustic performance

## **Our Campaign**

To address our needs and plans, we are initiating an intensive fundraising effort titled the ***Legacy of Faith and Light*** campaign. After the last capital campaign, resulting in the building of the narthex, \$1.5 million remained and was set aside for eventual renovation of the worship space. We need to raise an additional \$3.7 million through this campaign to allow us to complete the planned church renovation.

The campaign will officially run through December 1, 2023. All are invited and encouraged to sign up to attend a Taste and See event in October where you can enjoy a catered meal and listen to a presentation that will include photos and more details. After the meal and presentation, you

will be given a pledge card to be returned by the end of the campaign indicating your intended commitment.

We will then conclude our campaign with a “Commitment Weekend” in conjunction with all Masses on November 11-12 to allow those who haven’t yet submitted a pledge card to do so by November 22, the Feast of St. Cecilia.

### **Levels of Support Needed to Succeed**

To reach our financial objectives, we will need both a substantial number of givers and a few extraordinary gifts, as this chart of gifts needed illustrates:

#### **Fundraising Goal**

<b>Size of Gift</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Total</b>
\$400,000 or more	1	\$400,000
\$200,000 - 399,999	2	\$400,000
\$100,000 - 199,999	4	\$400,000
\$50,000 - 99,999	8	\$400,000
\$20,000 - 49,999	25	\$500,000
\$10,000 - 19,999	55	\$550,000
\$5,000 - 9,999	110	\$550,000
\$5,000 or less	200	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$3,700,000</b>

#### **Gift Options**

All members are asked to consider gifts above and beyond what they give in their regular offerings and other contributions. There are a variety of ways that gifts can be made.

Pledges payable over 3-5 years are more manageable for most and essential to meeting our goal. Gifts may be made in monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual installments at the donor’s discretion. A 10% initial investment toward your total pledge is encouraged.

You can also choose to support our efforts through deferred gifts. These are gifts that can be given or arranged for now, but will not be received at this time, and include gifts through a person's will by bequest, gifts of life insurance policies or annuities, and gifts in trust.

### **Gift Opportunities**

Several specific gift opportunities exist and give donors of qualifying gift amounts the unique chance to designate their gift to a particular portion of the project and dedicate it in honor or memory of those they choose. These special gift opportunities include:

Main Mural	\$400,000
Altar	\$400,000
Baptismal Font	\$300,000
Stained-glass Windows (8)	\$100,000 each
Organ	\$60,000
Ambo	\$50,000
Cupola	\$50,000
Crucifix/Tabernacle/Reredos	\$50,000
Saint Murals (2)	\$20,000 each
Presider Chair	\$30,000
Deacon Chair	\$20,000
Baptism Overhead	\$20,000
Mary - Joseph	\$20,000 each
Stations (14)	\$10,000 each
Pews (70)	\$5,000 each

The prices of the stated items are not reflective of the component's cost. Rather they are based on the prominence of the item. Although payments for these gifts may be made over the entire pledge period, recognition will not be received until the gift amount is paid in full. Contributors of these special gifts will be recognized appropriately by the parish. All donors, regardless of the size of the gift, will have their names inscribed on a giving tree to be displayed.

### **Summary**

Whatever the gift or method of making it may be, please be assured that *your* support is both urgently needed and will be greatly appreciated. Through the prayerful, volunteer, and financial support of many, we will succeed in our task.

Please join us in this exciting and essential effort to better our service to one another, to our community, and to Christ. Help us honor and extend our ***Legacy of Faith and Light*** for the benefit of current and future generations in our church family and their impact on our wider world.

### Suggested Pledge Plans (Five-Year Pledges)

Gift Level	Total Gift	(10%) Initial Investment	Weekly*	(60) Monthly	(20) Quarterly	(10) Semi-Annually	(5) Annually
<b>Pacesetting</b>	\$1,000,000	\$100,000	\$3,462	\$15,000	\$45,000	\$90,000	\$180,000
	500,000	50,000	1,731	7,500	22,500	45,000	90,000
	250,000	25,000	865	3,750	11,250	22,500	45,000
	100,000	10,000	346	1,500	4,500	9,000	18,000
	50,000	5,000	173	750	2,250	4,500	9,000
	40,000	4,000	138	600	1,800	3,600	7,200
	30,000	3,000	104	450	1,350	2,700	5,400
	25,000	2,500	87	375	1,125	2,250	4,500
<b>Major</b>	20,000	2,000	69	300	900	1,800	3,600
	15,000	1,500	52	225	675	1,350	2,700
	10,000	1,000	35	150	450	900	1,800
	5,000	500	17	75	225	450	900
<b>Community</b>	4,000	400	14	60	180	360	720
	3,000	300	10	45	135	270	540
	2,000	200	7	30	90	180	360

*\*Weekly figures are provided for illustration purposes only. To minimize transaction costs, suggested payment plans include monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or annual installments.*