

# CASE FOR SUPPORT

St. Joseph | Sea Isle City, NJ



## OUR HISTORY

The cornerstone of St. Joseph Church was laid on May 4, 1884, and became a parish on May 18, 1889, with the appointment of Father Edward J. Eagan as first resident pastor. Our beautiful new church was dedicated on December 18, 2011. St. Joseph serves an island shore community that ebbs and swells with the seasons. Today we have fewer than 700 year-round parishioners, approximately 300 seasonal parishioners and countless summer visitors who attend standing room only Sunday Mass in our beautiful, new church.

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

We, the people of St. Joseph, Sea Isle City, NJ, connected in faith as brothers and sisters in Christ, pledge to use our gifts and resources to live our faith by truth and love, to preach the Word and to serve the needs of others, as we instill a spirit of hospitality throughout our faith community. We will create welcoming opportunities to bring parishioners and friends of St. Joseph together in worship, religious formation, spiritual growth, mutual support, and parish social activities.

## CATHOLIC STRONG

As we look forward to the **Catholic Strong** Campaign for the Catholic Community of South Jersey, you may ask why, why now? The Diocese of Camden has not run a capital campaign in over 20 years. The focus of this campaign is to revitalize at the parish level. Every parish will participate and every registered Catholic will be asked to make a sacrificial gift. For every dollar we raise, St. Joseph will get 70%.

Our focus for our 70% will go towards ministries and evangelization: children's liturgy, senior services, bringing Catholics back to the Church, liturgical enhancements, as well as capital improvements and improved technology. The time is now to focus on the growth of our mission.

We envision an intimate space designed to benefit our many groups and ministries, as well as new senior-focused programs. We propose to repurpose the site of the old church to create an energy efficient, easily accessible, intimate and multi-purpose environment that embodies our mission statement and serves as a spiritual life center for our faith community.

When we reflect on our humble beginnings, we celebrate what we have inherited due to the extraordinary sacrifices of previous generations of parishioners and remain grateful for the community of faith, love, and joy that prospers here today. As we plan for the future, may we all continue this spirit of generosity and care for our community and for others.

We are asking our parish family to lend generous support to the campaign. As our current parishioners, we now call upon you to carry on the generosity, spirit and sacrifice that filled the hearts of the men and women who have supported our parish and diocese throughout our history.

As we have been blessed, let us act as stewards by supporting the **Catholic Strong** campaign to preserve the essence of what we and all of the faithful within the greater Church in South Jersey are blessed to have and to ensure the Church's presence in the lives of our children and grandchildren. Let us continue to show the power which blessed the first apostles to our parish and diocese. Your prayers, generosity, and sacrifice will ensure our success.

In Christ Jesus,  
Reverend Joseph Perreault

## OUR PLAN

The Catholic Community of South Jersey continues to reaffirm its commitment to promote the healing, redemptive, and teaching presence of Jesus Christ to those seeking solace, forgiveness, and instruction. We have followed Christ's invitation to love one another, to be a community of faith, and to share our gifts in a spirit of stewardship and gratitude.

As vital and active members of the Diocese of Camden wishing to make our contribution, we are beginning the **Catholic Strong** Campaign to provide the resources needed to strengthen our parishes and Catholic education, expand our outreach, and enhance our social services. A successful campaign will ensure the vitality of our faith communities and ultimately meet the evolving needs of our Diocese.

Every parish will share in these efforts with an allocated goal. Our parish campaign target is to raise a minimum of **\$1,160,000**, of which we will receive 70% (or a minimum of \$812,000), that will go toward parish revitalization and evolving needs. Additionally, we will receive 80% of all funds raised over our parish target. We will use our share to address the following needs:

### St. Joseph Funds | \$812,000

- **Spiritual Life Center**

While the old church has a rich history, unfortunately, it has significant issues that require attention and significant investment to stand as is. The building systems (plumbing, electrical and HVAC) are in need of replacement and costly on-going maintenance. Parish stakeholders have identified a better use for this space. We propose to repurpose the site to create an energy efficient, intimate Spiritual Life Center to better serve our parish community. This new building will complement the new church and serve as a place for fellowship, gathering and meeting. The facility will offer a convenient space for new and existing programs. It will meet all ADA requirements to be welcoming to all parishioners and instill a spirit of hospitality throughout our faith community, embodying the mission statement of our parish.

- **Technology**

To complement our new church and Spiritual Life Center, we will be investing in equipment and technology to safeguard the parish assets, e.g. enhanced security systems and cameras. Integral to this investment, will be the ability to live-stream Sunday Mass and related services to those members of our faith community unable to attend and/or to over-flow space when needed. This relatively small investment will yield many positive results for the safety and well-being of the community.

- **Senior Ministry**

As we look to the future, we envision new programs and enrichment activities that address the spiritual, physical, emotional and social needs of our parish community. We will enhance the lives of our faith-community by providing mental, physical and spiritual activities, shared friendships, intergenerational interaction and nutritional meals aimed to support the health and well-being of our seniors.

- **Auditorium Improvements**

The Auditorium will continue to be used for large gatherings, potentially as often as once per month. The current bathrooms are not ADA compliant and are in sore need of an upgrade. Parish stakeholders have requested modest improvements to the kitchen for safety purposes. These infrastructure enhancements will ensure the property is able to serve our community in the coming years.

*\*Above costs are projections and require diocesan consultation and approval. All projects are considered pending until campaign funds are realized*



**PARISH GOAL**  
**\$1,160,000**

(We will receive \$812,000)

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🌐 [stjosephsic.org](http://stjosephsic.org)