



Special Request

Dear Parishioners,

I am very pleased to share with you an extraordinary initiative to strengthen the Parish of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Agnes and our broader Catholic community in Fairfield County.

In 2018, Bishop Caggiano launched The **We Stand With Christ** capital campaign across our diocese to help our parishes prepare for the future. While our campaign was delayed in 2019 due to our merger and then in 2020 due to COVID, it gave us the time to further evaluate our needs in a post-pandemic world.

The capital projects we identified reflect the three pillars of our Parish (Service, Sacrament and Hospitality, and Spiritual Development) and have the support of our Parish leaders. I believe these initiatives will position our Parish to respond to the needs of our community.

With this brochure I present our campaign’s vision and hope you will accept my invitation to support our efforts by making a gift to **We Stand With Christ** and pray for its success.

Yours sincerely in Christ,
Fr. William Platt

Pastor

OUR CAPITAL PRIORITIES

1. WE WALK WITH JESUS IN SERVICE

Establish a fund for ministry to the marginalized – the poor, the elderly, the ill and the disabled.

This fund will help us to minister to the marginalized. Service is at the heart of the gospel. It brings us closer to God and to one another. We will use this fund to help with parish, local, national and international service opportunities and encounters that can transform.

Estimated Cost: **\$150,000**

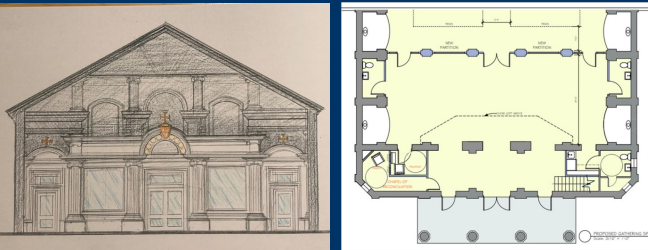


2. WE WALK WITH JESUS IN SACRAMENT AND HOSPITALITY (A)

Create a reconciliation room; enlarge the gathering space at the entrance of St. Catherine’s.

Our current reconciliation room at St. Catherine’s lacks accessibility for persons with disabilities, and its location in our sacristy isn’t Safe Environment compliant. We will relocate the reconciliation room to the entrance of the Church. This project would concurrently help to create a gathering space for hospitality that will triple the size of the existing vestibule.

Estimated Cost: **\$400,000 - \$500,000**



2. WE WALK WITH JESUS IN SACRAMENT AND HOSPITALITY (B)

Create a welcoming outdoor space for sacraments and hospitality at St. Catherine’s.

Our one-way traffic circle at St. Catherine’s often causes congestion and limits our parishioners’ ability to congregate before and after weddings, funerals, and popular masses (Easter Vigil, Christmas vigil, etc.). Our plan is to expand and re-route parish traffic while also improving traffic safety and modernizing our handicap accessibility.

Estimated Cost: **\$400,000 - \$500,000**

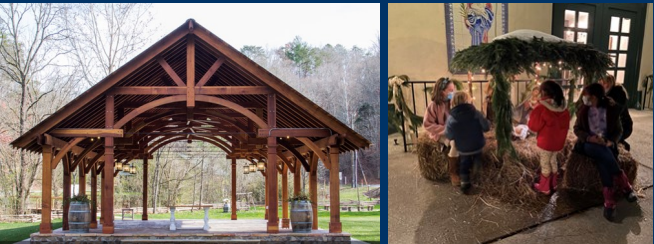


3. WE WALK WITH JESUS IN SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Provide a spiritual life center at our St. Agnes Campus.

We would like to take steps to create a spiritual life center at St. Agnes. This would include the construction of an outdoor pavilion for worship, retreats, meetings and parish gatherings. Additionally, we would like to update our current bathrooms, kitchens, technology, improving walkways/accessibility and outdoor lighting.

Estimated Cost: **\$800,000 - \$1,000,000**



The Parish of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Agnes

*We Stand With Christ
Capital Campaign*

4 Riverside Avenue
Riverside, CT 06878

Strengthening our Parish

OUR PARISH TODAY

This is an exciting time to be a part of St. Catherine of Siena and St. Agnes as we renew and refresh our Parish and serve our family of faith.

We believe these three innovative campaign initiatives will reaffirm our commitment to **Service, Sacrament and Hospitality**, and **Spiritual Development** for our Parish.



We see these initiatives as critical to re-imagining our Parish in a post-pandemic world that has changed all of us. It is imperative that we offer relevant opportunities for our parishioners to encounter Christ and continue to invite all parishioners to actively participate.

We also see these three initiatives as opportunities to welcome home those who are ready to recommit to their faith tradition by serving the marginalized; engaging in the Sacramentality of our faith, and providing opportunities for Spiritual Development.



We Stand With Christ

We Stand With Christ is a diocesan-wide initiative that includes every one of the 78 parishes in our Diocese. Our Parish goal for *We Stand With Christ* is \$3,000,000, which includes our 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal (\$278,000) and our 2021 Thanks-Is-Giving campaign (\$250,000). 71% of the *We Stand With Christ* funds raised will remain with us for our Parish needs. In addition to our plans, 17% of the funds raised will support three lay-lead foundations, legally separate from the Diocese, aimed at ensuring the future of Catholic education, enhancing our much needed pastoral ministries, and supporting important works of charity in Fairfield County. If we can exceed our goal, we will receive back 75% of all funds raised above \$3,000,000.

FLOW OF FUNDS	CAMPAIGN GOAL	CHALLENGE GOAL
1. 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal* Provides annual funding for works of charity, formation in faith, education, and catechesis in the Diocese of Bridgeport.	\$278,000	\$278,000
2. Campaign Expenses Includes professional fees, diocesan staffing, printing, mailings, transportation, video, pledge redemption, and gift processing.	\$83,607	\$83,607
3. 2021 Annual Thanks-Is-Giving Campaign* Supports our parish’s ongoing capital and maintenance needs.	\$250,000	\$250,000
4b. Parish Capital Needs Includes fund for ministry to the marginalized, a new reconciliation room, creating larger gathering spaces both inside and outside St. Catherine Church, and laying the foundation for a spiritual life center at St. Agnes.	\$1,868,240	\$2,243,240
4b. Foundations in Education, Faith and Charity Investments in three lay-lead foundations supporting 1) Catholic Education, 2) Pastoral Ministries, and 3) Works of Charity throughout Fairfield County.	\$520,153	\$645,153
TOTAL	\$3,000,000	\$3,500,000

*While the Annual Catholic Appeal and Thanks-Is-Giving campaign are included in *We Stand With Christ* in 2021 , please note they will return in 2022.



Our Commitment to the Broader Church

FOUNDATIONS IN EDUCATION

Catholic education that is faith-filled and academically vibrant is central to the mission of our Church and our Diocese. For this reason, \$173,384 of the funds we raise will be invested in Foundations in Education to ensure our Catholic schools remain financially viable and academically superior, while increasing access for all those who seek a Catholic education.

FOUNDATIONS IN FAITH

\$208,061 will be invested in Foundations in Faith to empower the Church in Fairfield County to support its many pastoral ministries. These ministries include enriching life-long faith formation and youth ministry, caring for retired priests, educating and forming seminarians, meeting the pastoral needs of the elderly, supporting those with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and enhancing evangelization efforts to increase participation in parish life.

FOUNDATIONS IN CHARITY

As more families turn to Catholic Charities each year, it is critical that we have the resources to respond to their needs. A total of \$138,708 from *We Stand With Christ* will be endowed in Foundations in Charity to support the work of Catholic Charities which will provide a long-term source of funding to sustain financial support for food, housing, mental health, adoption, immigration, and family services.

