

SAINT MARK'S CHURCH

PHILADELPHIA

AT THE THRESHOLD:

AN EARLY-STAGE CAMPAIGN FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF MINISTRY AT SAINT MARK'S

CELEBRATING THE PAST AND PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

In 2023, Saint Mark's will celebrate the 175th anniversary of its founding. As we head toward this significant milestone in the life of our parish community, we have much to celebrate in both the recent and distant past, and much to look forward to in the future.

At the threshold of our 175th celebration, two other anniversaries are upon us: the twenty-fifth anniversary of the ordination to the priesthood of our rector, Fr. Sean Mullen, and the fifteenth anniversary of his election as rector of Saint Mark's. Fr. Mullen's vision and leadership have been crucial to the pattern of growth in the parish. Over these past fifteen years, we have experienced substantial numerical, financial, and spiritual growth. At the same time, we have made a strong, ongoing commitment to address capital improvements. We give thanks for nearly two decades of steady growth, but most importantly, for the increase in our faith and commitment to the work and ministry to which the Gospel calls us.

Staying true to our mission to worship God and to care for God's people, we have expanded ministries of care to those in need, established Neighbor Care as a framework of intramural pastoral care, taken a bold leap of faith to found St. James School, firmly established fruitful ministry with children and their families, and expanded the music program to include a choir of Boys & Girls and a new all-volunteer choir. At the same time we have invested more than \$2.5 million in capital projects, many of which have addressed decades of deferred maintenance of the buildings.

Faithful to the Gospel and the vision of our founders, we have been at the forefront of the Anglo-catholic witness in the twenty-first century. We have shown, here on Locust Street, that a commitment to beautiful and reverent sacramental worship can and should shape the heart of a community to extend costly service to those who need our help. Our worship and our service both bear witness to our love of Christ and our adherence to his call to love God and love our neighbors.

OUR GOALS

With the upcoming 175th anniversary in mind, we are launching an early-stage campaign to prepare for a larger capital campaign that will be extensive in scope. That future campaign will finally address the challenges of extremely limited accessibility to our buildings, along with space utilization, and ongoing historic preservation demands. But before we can look toward

that larger plan, we have important work to do to develop solutions to those challenges and to address immediate capital needs that cannot wait another few years. The goals of this early-stage campaign are:

- To address **urgent repairs to the building envelope**, including replacement of the sacristy roof, repairs to the tower, various masonry repairs throughout the property, long deferred maintenance of the rectory, and replacement of failing air conditioning units in the Parish House and in the church.
- To provide funding for professional architectural services for a once-in-a-generation **master planning process** that will provide the vision and scope for how our buildings will serve the needs of worship, ministry, and outreach for another 50 years.

At a special reception in honor of Fr. Mullen on December 7th we'll announce this special effort to raise approximately \$650,000 within the next nine months. Thanks to a few lead donors and some legacy funds, we are pleased to be able to begin this campaign with commitments for 34% of our goal already in hand!

HOW WILL THIS CAMPAIGN SUPPORT THE GROWTH OF SAINT MARK'S?

The growth we have experienced over the last fifteen years has left us without any space for expanded ministry - especially ministry with children. The challenges of accessibility to our buildings render them inhospitable to many people for a variety of reasons. Too often, our buildings, which should be accessible to the public, including to those with limited mobility, function as though they are private spaces that clearly are not accessible to everyone. Christ's ministry to the world through us is greatly hindered in this way. But we can do something about it!

WHY ARE WE LAUNCHING THIS EFFORT NOW?

Careful professional planning, in consultation with the parish at-large, will be an essential foundation of the ambitious work we hope to accomplish in conjunction with our 175th anniversary. That planning needs to begin soon. Similarly, the work that this early-stage campaign is intended to fund will address urgent conditions that cannot wait for a large-scale capital fundraising campaign in several years' time. Repairs to the church's tower, replacement of the sacristy roof, and other masonry repairs require immediate action to prevent escalating damage and cost.

WHY DO WE NEED A MASTER PLAN?

So much in the church and in the world is changing. The church needs bold, new vision in order to use the gifts entrusted to us for the praise of God and for the benefit of God's people. Planning for the next twenty-five years of ministry requires a master planning process that will allow us to work out long-term solutions that respect our historic buildings while providing accessibility and identifying new usable space. The result will be a comprehensive plan that will enable us to use the parish's historic facilities more fully and effectively to serve the contemporary mission of parish life and ministry.

After a detailed and thorough selection process, the Vestry solicited a proposal from KieranTimberlake Architects for these master planning services. The Philadelphia-based firm is one of the nation's most prominent practices, known not only for widely-acclaimed, high-profile projects such as the US Embassy in London, but also for sensitive and creative solutions to the challenges posed by historic buildings. The firm's demonstrated creativity, experience in this field, and respect for sacred space all contribute to our confidence in selecting them as a partner in this work.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We invite you to support this early-stage campaign to fund the master planning process and to attend to our urgent capital projects that simply can't wait much longer. We are excited to prepare a plan for removing barriers to ministry in our National Historic Landmark buildings. After nearly two years of pandemic disruption, it's time to renew the spirit of growth that has animated this parish for the last fifteen years. During that time we have not only grown from a pastoral-sized parish to a program-sized parish, we have tackled major capital improvements in order to facilitate ministry now and to ensure ministry here in the future; and we have lived more expansively into the vocation to which God has called us as a leading parish in this diocese.

Your gift will not only honor Fr. Mullen's ministry; it will contribute meaningfully to our preparation for our 175th anniversary celebration, and it will help us to be ready for the next twenty-five years of ministry and beyond.

Threshold Campaign Goals

Architectural & Master Planning	\$250,000
Tower Repairs	\$70,000
Sacristy Roof Replacement	\$150,000
Masonry Restoration	\$70,000
Rectory Repairs	\$50,000
Air conditioning replacement	<u>\$60,000</u>
Total	\$650,000

For more information on this early-stage campaign, or to make a gift, please contact a member of the campaign committee:

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Saint Mark's is a community
that gathers in faith, serves in love, and proclaims hope,
through Jesus Christ.

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