

Celebrating our
FAITH



Continuing our
VISION

PLEDGE CAMPAIGN #3: OCT 2019 TO SEP 2022

*“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God,
serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” 1 Peter 4:10*

Our Vision: We envision an ever-growing faith family at a debt-free St. Stephen Parish, where our families and generations to come may continue to worship, to welcome others, and serve God. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the sacrifice of our forebears in faith, we gratefully assume secular and liturgical responsibility for our parish. In this beautiful new church, we will expand programs and our faith formation so that we may fully respond to our baptismal call to be loving disciples of Christ. We will fulfil this calling with generous hearts, graciously giving back the gifts that God has freely bestowed on us.



Our Problem: When we completed our new church in 2017, we accepted a mortgage loan of \$2.2 million. This financial burden prevents us from expanding religious education, hosting retreats and talks, and starting other faith formation programs. While some parishioners have staunchly supported the building of this church from the beginning, they cannot continue pay the mortgage alone. We are struggling to support the \$15,280 per month mortgage payment as well as the operating expenses and religious programming of the church. Indeed, several months this year have seen our donations fall short of our mortgage payment, a situation that is draining our Mortgage Fund bank account. We need more parishioners involved and contributing to the Mortgage Fund.

Our Plan: We must focus on stabilizing and possibly accelerating the mortgage payments to retire the mortgage as quickly as possible. Paying a mortgage is not exciting, but it is a necessary consequence of creating our new church building. Accepting responsibility for our new church includes accepting a share of the mortgage costs. Our Pledge Campaigns supply the bulk of the income to pay the mortgage payment. With consistency and sacrifice from each parishioner, we will share the financial burden of paying our mortgage across our entire parish population.

Our Costs: This Pledge Campaign is intended to cover the bulk of the mortgage costs over the next 3 years, and so our campaign target is to raise at least \$500,000. As an example, *if all 382 families registered with the parish participated in achieving this target, their sacrifice would average out to giving up one lunch in a restaurant each week.*

Why Now?: We must stabilize the cash flow supporting the mortgage so that we are not draining our bank account. If possible, we also look to pay down the principal as any extra money becomes available to shorten the mortgage before future interest rate increases. There are planned interest rate hikes annually for the next 3 years, leading to the renewal of the mortgage in 2023. *A lower principal can only mean lower interest costs to everyone in the parish.*

Our Call to Action: We invite you to help your brothers and sisters in Christ by contributing to the Mortgage Fund through this Pledge Campaign. Join us in relieving the mortgage debt we needed to make our beautiful new church, so that we may achieve our vision of a vibrant, program-rich Catholic parish in Lacombe. A debt-free church will be a lasting legacy for your family and future generations of Catholics in Lacombe. You can make gifts of cash or pledge your gift over three years (see **pledge form** overleaf). You can also donate monthly using the Pre-Authorized Debit form.

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This is my church: it is composed of people like me.

We make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

It will make generous gifts to many causes, if I am a generous giver.

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I bring them in.

It will be a church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church made of a noble spirit if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all things that I want my Church to be.

- Unknown Author -

Pledge Form

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

1. *Yes, I/we will help! My/our campaign pledge is:* \$ _____

2. *I would like to pay via:*

a one-time cash donation 3 annual payments on this date: _____

36 monthly payments starting in month: _____ Other: _____

Note: If you wish to have your Mortgage Fund pledge donation taken monthly from your bank account, please complete the Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) form.

3. *For more information on other ways to donate to the Building Fund, please check the box below and we will contact you:*

Life Insurance Gift of Listed Securities Bequests

Signature: _____ Date: _____

All pledge donations stay completely within the parish and are used to pay the mortgage. A charitable donation tax receipt will be issued in February of each year.

Please return this form in the Offering basket or mail to the parish office.



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