

What is a Capital Campaign?

For nonprofit organizations like St. Clare's, a capital campaign is a time-limited, focused fundraising effort to raise a significant amount of money for specific and agreed purposes. These are purposes that cannot be met from the annual budget. A capital campaign can be thought of as a strategic tool for growth, helping us to expand our capacity and enhance program and mission.

Campaigns like this are distinct from stewardship (annual fundraising) and legacy giving and will have specific start and end dates, with contributions typically made over several years.

A capital campaign usually focuses on one or more of the following:

- Fund the building of new or expanded facilities and/or adding additional equipment
- Repair, refurbishment or replacement of plant or equipment that is no longer functional or properly usable
- Establish a long-term financial reserve (or, endowed fund) to secure the future work of the parish

Why is St. Clare's exploring the possibility of a Capital Campaign?

The capital campaign process can serve as a powerful tool for organizations. In order for St. Clare's to achieve significant growth and expand our impact, we must consider options for securing the resources needed for new and expanded mission and program efforts. In the fall of 2024, the vestry elected to explore options for a possible capital campaign. To assist with that process, a working committee was formed, and Maurice Seaton of Summit Fundraising was contracted to advise and assist.

The campaign journey involves all stakeholders including vestry and staff, as well as all members of the church. A first and very important step is congregational discernment of potential needs and opportunities. Utilizing small group conversations, the hope is that all congregants will engage with this process and share their thoughts regarding the future of St. Clare's. In sharing during this discernment phase, participants will help define a sense of purpose while fostering community.

If discernment indicates that a feasibility study is in order, that would be the next step in the process. If a feasibility study indicates that a capital campaign is in order, that would be initiated most likely in the spring of 2026.

Because St. Clare's and Temple Beth Emeth co-manage the Genesis building, determining capital improvement priorities will be a shared task. To learn more about that process, please refer to the "Building Reserve Plan" Fact Sheet.