

Facilities Master Plan

An Appeal to Our Dedicated Parishioners

St. Mary Parish
Ridgefield, CT

Our Clergy

Msgr. Laurence R.
Bronkiewicz, S.T.D.
Pastor

Rev. Russell Augustine
Parochial Vicar

Deacon
Jerry Lambert

Deacon
Robert Salvestrini

Master Plan Committee

Vince Falotico
*Implementation
Lead*

Michael Cardi
Communications

Tim O'Connor
Finance

Joe Fossi
Construction

Building for Our Future

Our Saint Mary Roman Catholic Parish, located in the beautiful town of Ridgefield, Connecticut, is a vibrant Roman Catholic Community serving more than 3,000 families in Ridgefield and South Salem, NY, as well as the needs of our inner city sister Parish, Saint Peter in Bridgeport, CT.

Through a host of active Parish ministries and organizations, we strive to carry out our mission of growing in our understanding of the priceless gift of

our Catholic faith, expressing that gift through our prayer and the celebration of the Sacraments and witnessing to its power through service within our Parish and beyond.

Each year in our late 19th century church, built by our Parish in its earliest years, families, friends, and relatives join to celebrate Mass, Baptisms, First Communions, Confirmations, weddings and funerals, celebrating the gift of our faith.

Now in the early years of the 21st century, as our vibrant Community continues to grow, we must look forward and make sure that our Parish is prepared for the future.

After a long planning and consultative process, we are faithfully hoping to embark on a capital campaign to build a new church, ensuring that our 21st century Faith Community will be prepared for the next chapter of its illustrious history.

Proud History - Bold Vision for the Future

Our historic Church, with a seating capacity of 350, was built for our Parish at the end of the 19th century. Now faced with 21st century Parish needs, our Pastor, Msgr. Bronkiewicz, together with Parish Leadership, has taken the bold step of looking into the feasibility of constructing a new church on High Ridge Avenue, on Parish-owned land.

Two options are being considered to help finance the project: The first involves selling the property on which the church currently sits. The second, but more expensive option, is to keep the existing church and sell only a portion of the property surrounding it (the historic church would be used for special purposes such as weddings, funerals and

possibly perpetual adoration). The second option would require greater philanthropic support due to the reduced revenue from the sale of only a portion of the property.

Our Parish today is a testament to the generosity of previous generations during our 135 year history. It is now our turn to plan and provide for those who will follow us.



OUR GROWING FAITH COMMUNITY

1954

St. Mary School Opens

1960s

Masses Begin in
Parish Hall

2010

Development of
Parish-wide
Strategic Plan

Instituted New Lay
Leadership Model

2014-2016

Efforts to Facilitate
Growth of the Parish
Community:

Master Plan
Committee Formed

Parish Survey
Conducted

Church Options
Evaluated

New Collaborative
Leadership Model
Instituted

Outgrowing our Spiritual Home

While our church facilities have served us well for over a hundred years, our growing Faith Community can no longer flourish within our current facilities.

Our current facilities are limited in the following ways:

- **Too small**, accommodating only a portion of the 2,000 weekly Mass attendees at the same time. This is especially true during holiday Christmas and Easter Masses, First Communions and Confirmations.
- **Unable to provide a convenient space for communal gathering** before or after Mass
- **Lacks the necessary meeting space** that hinders our Parish's ability to support and foster participation in our growing number of ministries
- **Unable to accommodate a larger number of Mass attendees** should further Mass consolidations be necessary in the future

Our Plan – Investing in Future Generations

Our Plan calls for the construction of a new church as part of our Facilities Master Plan.

Building a new church will enhance our worshipping community by:

- **Increasing seating capacity from 350 to 750 inside a beautiful new worship space**
- **Establishing a dedicated gathering space** to foster community spirit
- **Creating adequate meeting space** for over 40 Parish ministries
- **Providing greater accessibility and safer access** for all by eliminating the need to cross High Ridge Avenue
- **Installing a state-of-the-art video and sound system**

We seek to raise \$10-12 million to build our new church facilities. We are assessing two courses of action:

OPTION 1: \$8 Million Capital Campaign

- ❖ \$3 million: Demolition and sale of entire existing church property
- ❖ \$1 million: Sale of additional Parish properties
- ❖ **\$8 million: Contributions raised from our dedicated Parish families**

OPTION 2: \$10 Million Capital Campaign

- ❖ \$1 million: Sale of *partial* church property (keeping current church)
- ❖ \$1 million: Sale of additional Parish properties
- ❖ **\$10 million: Contributions raised from our dedicated Parish families**

The funds secured from either campaign will be used to build our new church, its associated facilities, and to satisfy near-term Diocesan Appeal obligations, including our 2017 Annual Catholic Appeal goal.

Our Feasibility and Planning Study

We owe a great debt to those individuals whose stewardship and generous gifts of time, talent and treasure built and maintained our church and the Parish we love. We have a responsibility to future generations to ensure that Saint Mary Parish can continue to provide for them and for their children what it has provided for us and all those who have gone before us.

After much prayer and discernment, Msgr. Bronkiewicz, in collaboration with our Parish Leadership, has decided to conduct a Feasibility and Planning Study to determine the level of Parish support for building a new church.

To achieve our goal for the proposed \$8,000,000 or \$10,000,000 campaign that will meet our needs, **we need your thoughtful reflection and support. At this time we ask for your insight and counsel** so that we can plan for the future of our wonderful Saint Mary Parish Community.

Thank you for your thoughtful participation in this important study.

AT-A- GLANCE

1881

Parish Founded

1896

Original Church Built

3,020

Number of Families

251

School Enrollment

7

Weekend Masses

350

Church Seating
Capacity

Through a host of Parish ministries and organizations, we strive to carry out our mission of living, learning, and sharing our priceless gift of our faith through our public worship and private prayer, education and service within our Parish and beyond.

Our Vibrant Parish

Our vibrant Parish, dedicated to our Blessed Mother, is built on the foundation of God's Word, the teaching of our Church, the deep Catholic faith of our people in our Lord Jesus Christ, and their hard work and generosity throughout the course of our 135 year Parish history.

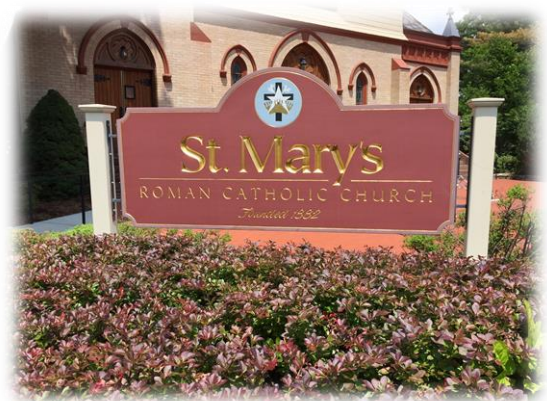


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