

*"Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,
whose trust is the Lord. He is like a tree
planted by water, that sends out its roots
by the stream, and does not fear when
heat comes, for its leaves remain green,
and is not anxious in the year of drought,
for it does not cease to bear fruit."*

~ Jeremiah 17:7-8



LEGACY OF FAITH
Capital Campaign

2023 - 2026

STEUBENVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

LETTER FROM OUR PASTORS

Dear Friends and Families of Steubenville Catholic Schools,

Our excellent Steubenville Catholic Schools have provided quality Catholic education for over 130 years to families in our parishes and the local area. For quite some time now our schools have undergone a very involved process of long-term planning, both with regard to its physical facilities as well as its religious and academic curricula. Much of this planning has been put into place and we have been seeing the fruits of the efforts of so many.

Long overdue, however, are the needed improvements to the elementary school facility. We therefore write you with some urgency about this very necessary plan. As you will find reading through this brochure, our elementary school is growing steadily. With our annex building long past its life expectancy, we must now face the prospect of both replacing the annex building as well as expanding our classroom space. This is actually a wonderful challenge, for it means that we have many families with children who are interested in an excellent Catholic education. I am asking you to step up to the challenge with your financial commitment.

Our campaign, aptly entitled "Legacy of Faith," honors sacrificial faith from past generations, and the understanding that such sacrifices must be continued by the present generation. "Tradition," which is so very rich in our Catholic faith, literally means "to hand on," or, if you will, "to pass the baton." We are asking you to help us pass on the rich legacy of our faith. This campaign is our plan to accept the challenge of ministering to our children.

Our Legacy of Faith Campaign therefore will help secure our school buildings for present and future generations. Our elementary school is in serious need of both replacing the failing annex, as well as adding on to our classroom space. The funds from this campaign will be used to create a building with eight additional classrooms which will replace and expand our space to meet our educational needs. It will supply for these needs on a single, unified campus, adjacent to a parish church where they will celebrate holy Mass and the sacrament of confession. We are also asking for financial support for a very needed roof replacement at Catholic Central.

We ask you to please read through this brochure, and give prayerful consideration to making a sacrificial, generous gift to our campaign. This is a true Legacy of Faith, a legacy founded not in the mere repetition of words, but in the exemplifying witness of generosity. May God bless you for your goodness and generosity.

In Christ,

Rev. James M. Dunfee
Pastor, St. Agnes

Rev. Matthew Gossett
Pastor, Triumph of the Cross

Rev. Michael Gossett
Pastor, Blessed Sacrament

Rev. Timothy Huffman
Pastor, St. Peter

Rev. John McCoy
Pastor, St. John Fisher

Rev. Drake McAlister
Administrator, Holy Family

Rev. Thomas Vennettii
Pastor, St. Francis & St. Joseph



A LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPALS



Dear Crusader Friends and Family,

As the principals of Steubenville Catholic Schools, we are excited to announce the launch of our capital campaign. Building on the objectives of our strategic plan, we are expanding our elementary facility to accommodate our growing enrollment and replace the current annex with an eight classroom building.



The classrooms in this building (Legacy Hall) will honor the founding grade schools that led to the establishment of Bishop John King Mussio Elementary. Alumni of these schools are invited to donate to the naming of these classrooms. In addition, we are raising funds for the much needed roof at Catholic Central. The continued growth of Catholic Central High School is dependent on the strength of our elementary and junior high.



Our schools have a long history of excellence in education and we are proud to be serving the children of so many of our graduates. We know that 2.4 million is a lofty goal, but we believe it is a crucial investment in the future of our schools and our church. Catholic education is even more vital in our current times. As we continue to educate the next generation of children in the tradition of Courage, Character, Heart and Spirit, we ask that you prayerfully consider how you can support this campaign.



Respectfully,



Mrs. Theresa Danaher
Principal
Bishop Mussio Elementary

Mrs. Jude Lucas
Principal
Bishop Mussio Junior High
& Catholic Central High School



OUR HISTORY

The parochial school system in the local area had its beginnings well before Steubenville became a diocese. When Bishop John King Mussio arrived in May of 1945 to become the first Bishop of the newly formed Diocese of Steubenville, there were already about 5,000 pupils in the 35 elementary and secondary schools. In the next twenty years, the student population doubled, and 13 new schools were established. In the more than three decades that Mussio was bishop, some 22 parishes either started new schools, constructed new school buildings, moved into larger buildings, or had major renovations at their schools.

Bishop Mussio's first residency was very close in proximity to the early Catholic Central High School, which at that time was in the downtown area. His closeness to that school and seeing their need to expand to serve the growing student population brought him to ask for the support of the area pastors to move the school to another location. And so, a capital campaign was launched and by 1947 property was bought three miles west of the old school – a tract of land with only limited habitation, standing alone between Johnson Road and Garfield Avenue. Construction began in 1948, and in September 1950 the new Steubenville Catholic Central opened and graduated 171 students in the spring of 1951. Catholic Central has maintained its educational role in the community, with building expansion projects over the years.

The boom years for the local area brought many students to the Steubenville Catholic Schools, and by 1966, when schools throughout the diocese and the nation were at their peak with the largest enrollments ever, more than 2,000 pupils were enrolled in Steubenville and adjacent Wintersville's seven parochial schools. However, the following years saw a drop off of enrollment, and the first mergers of the schools began.

By the time of Bishop Mussio's death in 1978, Holy Name Cathedral and St. Stanislaus schools had closed, leaving St. Anthony and St. Peter's schools to care for students in all four downtown parishes. Meanwhile, west end parishes, including Wintersville, undertook similar moves, joining together to make a new school named Aquinas. Aquinas eventually moved into a local vacant Indian Creek School District building on Lovers Lane in Steubenville in the early 1980s. By then, the remaining two schools in the downtown had merged to make All Saints, which housed lower grades at the St. Peter's building and grades 5-8 at the St. Anthony site. Eventually, with shifting population and enrollment decline, the St. Anthony building was closed and St. Peter's became the only All Saints' location. Through all of this transformation, however, Holy Rosary School, which was close to the Catholic Central building campus, remained independent.

In 2005, the diocese underwent a series of changes with the merging of parishes and the closing of churches. The schools felt the impact and further school consolidation became necessary. By 2008, two new entities were formed, named Bishop John King Mussio Elementary and Bishop John King Mussio Junior High Schools. With the subsequent closings of St. Agnes in Mingo Junction and St.



HONORING OUR PAST

Francis in Toronto, BJKM became the central Catholic school for all of Jefferson County. Initially, there were two buildings used for the elementary students Preschool through 6: the Aquinas building on Lovers Lane and the Holy Rosary site near Catholic Central. The Junior High School housed seventh and eighth graders within a wing of the high school. Within two years, the building on Lovers Lane was closed and BJKM students were all in the former Holy Rosary building– resulting in one large campus within walking distance of one another, and adjacent to the Triumph of the Cross Church.

While there were many moments historically that required the merging and consolidation of schools in the area, Catholic schools around the nation today are seeing a revitalization. This is especially true in the Steubenville area where there has been significant growth at the elementary level and steady growth at the junior high and high school levels. We are now at a different point in the history of Catholic education in our area, and in order to respond to the increased interest we need to make a decision to help support the families that are looking once again at our schools to provide the holistic formation that has been a hallmark of a Catholic education.

Today, Steubenville Catholic Schools encompass grades Pre K -12 and are comprised of three schools: Steubenville Catholic Central High School, Bishop John King Mussio Junior High and Bishop John King Mussio Elementary. These schools integrate Catholic values, beliefs, and traditions within the context of a strong academic program. Students receive daily instruction in religion and attend Mass, stations of the cross, and benediction. They share in a variety of devotional activities, including the rosary and eucharistic adoration. Spiritual development is the core purpose of Catholic education, and that purpose is integrated throughout the curriculum. Our schools strive for academic excellence and also value athletics and the arts as essential to a well-balanced education. Though Steubenville Catholic Schools is foremost a Catholic institution, families of all faiths and traditions who share our core values are welcomed to the school community.



OUR MISSION

Grounded in the Catholic Faith, rooted in tradition, and committed to academic excellence, we are a school community that inspires students to utilize their God-given talents for a life of Christian discipleship and service.



The Catholic schools of Steubenville have adapted to the circumstances and challenges brought about by each generation over the past 170 years. Buildings and school mascots have changed. Course offerings and subject matter have evolved. But one thing has been constant—the commitment to providing a traditional values-based, academically rigorous, Catholic educational option to the families of Steubenville, Jefferson County, and the surrounding upper Ohio Valley.

THE NEED

More and more families are seeking out the high-quality Catholic education provided by Bishop John King Mussio Elementary, Bishop John King Mussio Junior High, and Catholic Central High School. We now have some lower grade classrooms filled to capacity and are establishing a waiting list.

At the elementary school, four modular classrooms have reached the end of their useful life-span, and must be replaced. Other classrooms, offices, and common spaces are being used at maximum efficiency.

Our Steubenville Catholic Schools are facing a challenge—we need more room to serve more students!



THE CAMPAIGN

\$2.4 million is needed to strengthen the foundations of Catholic education in Steubenville and Jefferson County. The elements of this campaign are:

- One new 50-year rated modular classroom unit with 8 classrooms for the elementary school: \$2.1 million.
- Replace the roof on the cafeteria, weight room and Junior High classroom portion of Catholic Central High School. \$300,000

Any additional funds raised above the cost of these projects will be used for future capital improvements at the schools.



PREVIEW OF OUR NEW 8 CLASSROOM MODULAR BUILDING



An actual rendering will be provided once we have solidified a certain amount of funding and move forward with the project. The above floor plan is not the final rendering, but gives an example of what the space could look like.

THIS CAMPAIGN WILL:

- Provide a campus vision for the Steubenville Catholic Schools that continues to offer pre-K through 12 Catholic education that is conveniently located for families, whether they live on the hilltops of Steubenville or in one of the surrounding communities
- Secure a K-12 campus that shares facilities including Holy Rosary Church and Lanman Hall fostering interactions among the students and faculty from all three schools
- Provide additional classrooms to provide space for the enrollment growth for the elementary grades, build capacity for growth in the junior high school grades, and sustain growth at the high school level.
- Allow the 6th grade students to complete their studies in the elementary school and serve as leaders in that setting before moving to the junior high building in 7th grade
- Address two of the most critical facility needs of the current campus: the aging roof on the high school building and the temporary annex that needs to be replaced due to its age as well as its inability to meet the enrollment demands



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I thought our population was shrinking in Steubenville and Jefferson County. Don't we have plenty of space already?

While the school-age population in Jefferson County, Ohio has dropped by 12% over the past decade, enrollment is growing in Steubenville's Catholic schools, particularly in the lower grades. From a steady Kindergarten-5th grade baseline of about 250 students from 2014-2017, Bishop John King Mussio Elementary has grown by 12% to over 280 students in 2023. For the 2023-24 year, several grade levels are already at capacity. And this growth at the elementary level will translate into future growth for the junior high and high schools.

To handle the growing elementary enrollment in our current facilities, in fall of 2020 the 6th grade classes were moved from the elementary to the Junior High/High School building. This has limited the ability of the Junior High and High School to have space for future enrollment growth.

Several factors seem to be driving this enrollment growth:

- Catholic education in the state of Ohio is becoming more and more affordable to families through the Ohio EdChoice scholarship program. Most of our Steubenville Catholic School families now receive EdChoice grants that cover partial to full tuition costs, depending on income. This recent expansion of the scholarship program has been a blessing to our families, making excellent Catholic education accessible to families who desire it.
- Since the pandemic, more and more families have moved from larger cities to smaller towns looking for lower cost of living and a more family-friendly lifestyle—and in Steubenville and Jefferson County, many of these families are enrolling in Steubenville Catholic Schools.
- In the midst of cultural and societal upheaval, more and more families are interested in an academically excellent educational option that promotes virtue, traditional values, and Christian discipleship.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will my gift really end up supporting the Catholic schools?

Donors deserve to have confidence that their gifts will be used wisely and for the purpose intended. To foster trust and accountability, all donations to The Campaign will be made to and disbursed by the Steubenville Catholic Schools Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity that is legally and financially separate from both the Diocese of Steubenville and from the Steubenville Catholic schools. Founded in 2019, the Foundation's legal by-laws state:

The purpose of the Foundation shall be solely to perpetuate, advance, and support Bishop John King Mussio Elementary School, Bishop John King Mussio Junior High School, and Catholic Central High School, or their successors, principally through financial support, and to qualify for nonprofit tax exemption under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3).



Is this the most cost-effective plan?

Over the past five years various options have been investigated to prepare for the future of our Catholic schools. A major addition to the elementary school was seriously researched, but the cost was not realistic. Moving the elementary grades back to the former Aquinas building was also considered, but cost estimates to update the Aquinas building are comparable to the cost of constructing eight new classrooms next to the current elementary school.



With modular classrooms, won't we be in the same situation in a few years?

While the current four modular classrooms have reached the end of their useful life, the new classrooms are actually prefabricated buildings with an expected life-span of 50 years. We will not be replacing the classrooms with similar classrooms, but with a very cost-effective solution that will last for generations.



How you can get involved

As we begin the Legacy of Faith Campaign, every family is asked to consider all the information and then make a prayerful decision about how to support the Campaign. You may be personally contacted by school volunteers during the campaign. These volunteers will be giving their time to undertake the vital task of making contact to communicate our vision and encourage involvement in this campaign. We know that what we are asking may be a challenge to some. We turn to you, because your special generosity is essential to our success. God has blessed each of us and we are called to share our blessings with others. Please pray for our Campaign and consider making a generous and sacrificial pledge to this important effort. As the faith community, it is up to us to supply the financial means to bring this project to a successful conclusion, by doing all we can with our resources. With the commitment, sacrifice and prayers of each member of our parish family, we will be able to realize our goals.

During the Campaign, we are asking everyone to:

1. Pray for the success of the campaign.
2. Be an ambassador for Steubenville Catholic Schools by getting involved, sharing key information and enthusiastically encouraging others to get involved.
3. Make a sacrificial pledge.



How to pledge your support

The goal of the campaign is to raise \$2,400,000. Every member of our school community is integral to our success in reaching this goal and each family is asked to consider making a pledge to the campaign to the best of their financial ability.

Each family is asked to consider a pledge of \$4,000 or more, payable over three years (or longer). A pledge of \$4,000, after a down payment of \$400, is \$100 per month for 36 months. This breaks down to only \$3.29 a day!

We need your special generosity

Everyone is asked to prayerfully consider how their generosity can reflect their gratitude for the gifts that God has given them. We know that a pledge of \$4,000 will be a challenge for some of our parish households, therefore, it is vital to the success of our campaign that those who are able to make larger pledges do so.

In Deuteronomy 16:10 we are reminded that:

"the measure of your own free will offering should be in proportion to the blessing the Lord has bestowed on you."

God has given us so much! In turn, we are asked to consider prayerfully how our generosity can reflect our gratitude for the gifts that God has given to us. If you have been blessed financially and are able to pledge \$10,000, \$25,000, \$50,000, \$100,000 or more, we ask that you become a leader in our campaign. Your example and generosity will provide the needed momentum and enthusiasm for a successful campaign and will help ensure the continued vibrancy of our schools.

Not everyone can make the same size gift, but EVERYONE can make the same size SACRIFICE.



SUGGESTED PLEDGE PLANS

Total Pledge	10% Down Payment	3 Annual Payments	6 Semi-Annual Payments	12 Quarterly Payments	36 Monthly Payments	Daily Sacrifice
\$500,000	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$12,500	\$410.96
\$250,000	\$25,000	\$75,000	\$37,500	\$18,750	\$6,250	\$205.48
\$100,000	\$10,000	\$30,000	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$2,500	\$82.19
\$50,000	\$5,000	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$1,250	\$41.10
\$25,000	\$2,500	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$1,875	\$625	\$20.55
\$20,000	\$2,000	\$6,000	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$500	\$16.44
\$15,000	\$1,500	\$4,500	\$2,250	\$1,125	\$375	\$12.33
\$10,000	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$750	\$250	\$8.22
\$8,000	\$800	\$2,400	\$1,200	\$600	\$200	\$6.58
\$6,000	\$600	\$1,800	\$900	\$450	\$150	\$4.93
\$5,000	\$500	\$1,500	\$750	\$375	\$125	\$4.11
\$4,000	\$400	\$1,200	\$600	\$300	\$100	\$3.29

These gift plans are provided as a suggested guideline when considering your pledge. Please review the gift plans carefully and prayerfully consider a sacrificial gift that fits your household's financial ability. Your pledge can be made over a three year period of time.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

- Payments may be made over a period of three (3) years.
- Pledge payments are fully deductible for tax purposes.
- Please make checks payable to:

SCS Foundation (Steubenville Catholic Schools Foundation)

Memo Line: **Legacy Fund**

SCS Foundation, P.O. Box 1484, Steubenville, OH 43952



THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Many people contribute to the life of our school community and provide vision for our future.

Our deepest gratitude extends to all our supportive priests, our Campaign Committee, the SCS Foundation Members, and our dedicated school administration and staff who have given the gifts of their time and talents to make this project a success.

SCHOOL STAFF SERVING ON THE CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE:

Fr. James Dunfee,
Pastoral Administrator of BJKM Elementary
Fr. Michael Gossett,
Pastoral Administrator of BJKM Jr. High & Catholic Central
Theresa Danaher, *Principal of BJKM Elementary*
Jude Lucas, *Principal of BJKM Jr. High & Catholic Central*
Alisha Teramana, *Director of Marketing & Special Events*
Diana Lash, *Director of Finance*
Scott Yarman, *Diocesan Director of Buildings and Grounds*

STEUBENVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOL (SCS) FOUNDATION:

Matt Provenzano, *President*
Adam Martello, *Vice-President*
Brian Joyce, *Treasurer*
Rena Bolger, *Secretary*
Other Foundation members are Dr. Michael Martello,
Paul Carapellotti, John Balzano and Elizabeth DiGregory.

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE:

Mark Kissinger
Tim Delaney
David Skiviat
Joe Luckino
David Schmiesing
Mark Morelli
Lou Almonte
Mike Vitello
Vicki Nurczyk
Dan Baillargeon
Megan Baillargeon
Megan Provenzano
Mike Thompson



STEUBENVILLE CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

BJKM Elementary

100 Etta Ave.
Phone: 740.264.2550

BJKM Junior High

320 West View Ave., Suite 2
Phone: 740.346.0028

Catholic Central High

320 West View Ave.
Phone: 740.264.5538

