



GROWTH
IN
Christ
A CAMPAIGN FOR ST. THERESA
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS: *Maintenance Fund & School Endowment*

Do we currently have a maintenance fund?

We currently have approximately \$700,000 in our maintenance fund, which is held in our investment account.

How will adding to the fund help our parish?

While our annual offertory allows us to address many routine maintenance needs, it cannot fully cover the larger repairs and replacements that naturally arise as our buildings age. Increasing the maintenance fund will allow us to prepare for these significant projects before they become urgent or more costly. By investing in the long-term care of our facilities, we ensure that future generations will continue to have welcoming, safe, and well-maintained spaces where they can worship, learn, serve, and grow in Christ.

Do we have a capital replacement plan in place?

What are some of our immediate needs?

We have a capital replacement plan for our campus and are working with a consultant to develop a more comprehensive long-term plan to help us anticipate future needs. Based on our current assessment, some of our highest-priority projects include:

- ✦ Repair church and school roofs and siding: **\$900,000**
- ✦ Replace 10 rooftop HVAC units: **\$500,000**
- ✦ Improve parking lots and drive lanes: **\$250,000**
- ✦ Update church restrooms: **\$70,000**

Addressing these projects proactively helps us to protect our facilities, avoid more costly repairs in the future, and ensure that our campus continues to serve parishioners, students, and visitors for many years to come.

As we get ready to launch our Growth in Christ Capital Campaign, we know you have a lot of questions. We will try to keep you informed about our plans and the campaign through a series of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

Visit our campaign website at st-therese.org for additional information about our campaign.

How does the parish decide which maintenance projects are addressed?

Each year, our Director of Operations works closely with the Facilities Committee to evaluate our campus and identify maintenance priorities using our capital replacement plan. Projects are recommended based on factors such as safety, urgency, stewardship, and available funding. Once priorities have been established, the Finance Council reviews and approves the final maintenance budget as part of the parish's annual budgeting process.

This thoughtful planning process helps ensure we care for our facilities responsibly while making the best use of parish resources.

Do we plan to add a cross to our steeple?

One of the goals of this campaign is to place a durable, lasting cross atop our steeple. A church steeple naturally draws our eyes heavenward, and the cross reminds us that Christ is at the center of everything we do. It will stand as a visible witness to our Catholic faith, welcoming parishioners, inspiring those who pass by, and serving as a lasting sign of hope for our community. As we continue to grow in Christ, this cross will be a visible reminder that every ministry, every act of service, and every gift offered through this campaign is rooted in Jesus Christ.





What is the St. Therese Catholic School Endowment Fund? How much is currently in the fund?

In 1999, church and school leaders partnered with the Catholic Community Foundation of Minnesota (CCF) to establish the St. Therese Catholic School Endowment Fund. Today, the fund holds about \$1.3 million, which provides a 4% annual distribution to support our school. Up until now, the distribution has been reinvested each year. Moving forward, when we take a distribution, the Finance Council will decide how the distribution is used.

What can the funds be used for? How will additional funds benefit our school?

The St. Therese School Endowment Fund aims to support and enhance the programs provided by St. Therese Catholic School. Three major areas of focus include:

- ✦ Tuition assistance for students and families
- ✦ Competitive salaries to attract and retain outstanding teachers and staff
- ✦ Technology that enhances teaching and learning

Growing the endowment means growing its annual distribution. Every additional dollar invested today creates a lasting source of funding that helps strengthen Catholic education at St. Therese for generations to come.

What is our current tuition cost?

For the 2026-27 school year, tuition is \$6,478.50 per student. However, the actual cost to educate each student is approximately \$11,000. Growing our endowment will continue to help bridge that gap.

Currently, St. Therese provides around \$100,000 in tuition assistance each year to about 20% of our students to make Catholic education accessible to these families. The request for tuition assistance continues to increase annually..

Why does the endowment support teacher salaries?

Outstanding teachers are at the heart of everything we do. They help students grow academically, develop strong character, and deepen their relationship with Christ every day. To continue providing the exceptional faith-based education that defines St. Therese, we must attract and retain talented, mission-driven educators. While we cannot always match the salaries offered by public schools, the income from the endowment helps us provide more competitive compensation and recognize the tremendous value our teachers bring to our students and parish.



*Lord, Renew
Your Church*