



What we learned from the St. Mary's Town Hall Meeting on 2.13.22

Thank you to all the parishioners who attended the second session of Town Hall Meetings and offered their support, suggestions, and ideas! Here is what we learned from those who were present and those who have since submitted feedback...

- Overwhelmingly, there is continued interest in making St. Mary's more **welcoming**, both in spirit and in physical facilities. Phase 2 of our facility improvement project started years ago is still relevant and important to our parish community.
- In order of popularity, the most interesting aspects of the proposed facility improvement project were **entrance/atrium** expansion; **cross tower** construction; larger **elevator**; more **hospitality/events**; updated ADA-compliant **bathrooms** (possibly including space for brides, nursing, changing stations); safer **steps into church**; repaired/raised **roof/ceiling**; and more **faith formation** opportunities.
- Early estimates for a construction project that would satisfy the proposed needs mentioned come in around **\$2 million**. In order to get approval from the Diocese of Springfield to embark upon a capital campaign, we would need to have the full \$2 million pledged and half of it up front in order to start construction.
- **91%** of those who responded on notecards **plan to donate** to a capital campaign to support a Phase 2 construction project. **97%** **believe we should commence a capital campaign for Phase 2** as presented at the Town Hall meeting.
- **New volunteers** came forward to help with a campaign, and other volunteers offered to work on some of the new **hospitality and community-building ministries** at St. Mary's.

With this valuable information from new and long-time parishioners at the second session of Town Hall meetings, the Phase 2 Campaign Committee plans to request diocesan permission to commence a capital campaign that we believe we can successfully execute without a professional fundraiser. Once we have the go-ahead, we will engage architectural designers and pursue updated construction costs, timeframes, and details.

We continue to welcome your questions and suggestions on the notecards in the church gathering space or online at stmaryedw.org. Stay tuned for a campaign kickoff in the coming weeks!

