

Executive Summary

St. Mary's Catholic Church ("St. Mary's") engaged GRACE Philanthropy Services ("GRACE Philanthropy") to evaluate the parish's readiness for a capital campaign to fund its Campus Improvement Plan.

The study was conducted from July through August 2026, and included confidential interviews, a parish town hall meeting, and written and online surveys. More than one hundred parishioner households took part — 16 through interviews and 88 through surveys — providing quantitative data and qualitative insight into parish life, leadership, facilities, opportunities, and financial capacity.

St. Mary's is widely regarded by parishioners as a warm, welcoming, close-knit parish family. Study participants consistently expressed appreciation for the spiritual leadership of Father Bob Jallas and his homilies, the strength of the parish school, and the sense of community that makes St. Mary's feel like home. For many, the parish is an extension of their own family — a place where faith is lived actively and relationships extend beyond Mass.

The Campus Improvement Plan centers on re-roofing the remaining parish facilities and retiring parish debt, together with investments in ministries and programs, school enhancements, campus beautification, and diocesan stewardship. Parishioners see this work as essential stewardship — protecting the campus they love while creating capacity for vibrant ministry. Guided by the campaign theme *Faithful Then, Faithful Now, Faithful Forward*, the effort honors the generations who built St. Mary's, strengthens the parish today, and prepares it for the families of tomorrow.

Support for the plan is strong. A majority of participants encouraged the parish to move forward, and parishioners are clear about their priorities — re-roofing the facilities is the most urgent need, followed by debt retirement. A base of financial capacity exists within the parish, concentrated among longer-tenured families whose lead gifts will be decisive. Participants also offered candid guidance. They ask that the parish communicate openly and often; connect the campaign to ministry and parish life as well as buildings; and, proceed in well-planned phases.

Based on financial indications, survey and interview data, and parishioner wealth capacity analysis, GRACE Philanthropy recommends that St. Mary's move forward with a capital campaign — built around a \$1.8 million challenge goal for planning and budgeting purposes and beginning with a quiet lead-gift phase before any public announcement. St. Mary's is willing and able. Support and capacity are present. Success now depends on leading with the urgent roof need, communicating transparently, and building the campaign in deliberate steps. With Father Bob and committed lay leaders, St. Mary's is well positioned to advance its mission — *Faithful Then, Faithful Now, and Faithful Forward*.