

ST JAMES 2026 CASE STATEMENT

MISSION – Faithful to the will of the Father and guided by the Holy Spirit, St. James carries on the mission of Jesus Christ in the Liberty area. We fulfill this mission by living as a **community** of faith and the Family of God; proclaiming the **Gospel** to all generations; **worshipping** God through the Holy Eucharist and the Sacraments, receiving strength for the journey; and **servicing** the "least of these" in our community and beyond.

HISTORY – St. James has a long and proud history of serving Catholics in the Liberty area. Founded as the Mission of St. James in 1837, the parish was first located at McCarty and Water Streets, where churches were built in 1847 and 1913. In 1978, St. James purchased property on Stewart Road, and in 1981 constructed its first church and school on the present campus.

Over the decades, the parish has continued to grow through the faith, sacrifice, and generosity of its people. New additions to the church, school, and campus culminated in the dedication of the present church by Bishop Johnston on October 19, 2019.

CHALLENGES – In 2012, Fr. Mike Roach and parish leaders undertook a comprehensive master planning process to prepare St. James for the future. Together, they developed a long-term vision that included constructing a new church complex, renovating the former church into the St. Gerard Event Space, renovating the current Social Hall, and enhancing the school with a new front entrance, office improvements, and updated security features.

While much of that vision has been accomplished, important elements remain unfinished. As the only Roman Catholic parish in the Liberty area, the demands on our facilities, ministries, programming spaces, and school continue to increase.

The time has come to move forward on the vision, address critical campus and ministry needs, and prepare St. James for the next generation of parishioners, students, and families.

SOLUTIONS – To meet the needs of:

- a parish and school that continue to grow;
- increased security
- the oldest part of our campus – Narthex, St Gerard Event Space, and Social Hall, including restrooms and kitchen;
- improvements to church and surroundings;
- expected growth, increased hospitality and welcome, increased gathering, programming and ministry opportunities; and

we propose a **Renewing God's House** capital campaign effort

Campus and Programming Spaces (Community)

- St. Gerard Event Space (former church)
- Social Hall with Kitchen and restrooms renovation and modernization

Total **\$6,100,000**

Education (Word)

- Redesign the school front entry to enhance safety and security
- School office updates and renovations

Total **\$1,900,000**

Contingency - For inflation, interest changes and change orders **\$1,000,000**

Grand Total **\$9,000,000**

FINANCIAL PLAN

Current St. James Savings for Plan **\$3,000,000**
 Capital Campaign over 3 Years **\$6,000,000**

Grand Total **\$9,000,000**

*** Building Fund - Any funds raised over goal will go toward the Building Fund for things like a New Rectory, School Elevator, Church Interior Projects, etc.**

CALL TO ACTION - For almost 190 years, God has worked through St. James to build and grow His Kingdom through friendship and community, Gospel proclamation, worship, and service.

Over the last fifteen years, we have witnessed God accomplishing bold and mighty things through the faith, sacrifice, and generosity of His people. Together, we have completed successful campaigns, built a beautiful new church and campus, strengthened our ministries, and prepared for the future.

Yet our work is not finished!

Faithful to God's call and inspired by the vision of the last fifteen years, we must now address the critical needs and blessed opportunities that lie before us. Together, we can complete the vision, strengthen our parish for future generations, and continue Christ's mission in the Liberty area.

May God, who has begun this good work among us, bring it to completion