

Where

do you see yourself in

2028?

What will your family life look like?

What will your financial situation be?

Will you still be in Gilbert?

How about

2058?

What will your family life look like?

Where will you be?

I ask these questions because, if we were to build a grand new church as was originally discussed, Saint Mary Magdalene would not be able to build this church until 2028 and would still be paying off its loans in 2058. So many things can change in over 40 years.

BUILDING A BRAND NEW CHURCH

Estimated Financing and Building Timeline

- 2017-2019 • Three-year campaign to pay off existing debt of \$2.99 million when the existing church was constructed
- 2020-2025 • Two campaigns to raise \$6-\$8 million towards a new church
- 2026 • \$4-\$6 million loan, payable over thirty years, taken
- 2026-2027 • Building design and construction
- 2028 • Church dedication and opening
- 2058 • Final loan payment made

In recent years, several other parishes in the Diocese of Phoenix built new parishes of comparable size to our church at Saint Mary Magdalene. Each was required to take on significant debt, debt each parish will pay over the next, thirty, forty or even fifty years.

Additionally, constructing a large church does not address Saint Mary Magdalene's most pressing need: space. The existing facility has limited space and times available for youth groups, religious education, and other parish ministries to meet. This forces groups to meet in smaller spaces, at inconvenient times or at off-site locations. All three limit the number of parishioners active in these ministries. Since Saint Mary Magdalene is already operating over capacity, it is difficult for new ministries to begin.

Because of this uncertainty and the massive amount of debt required, Saint Mary Magdalene leaders decided upon a more fiscally sound plan, a plan that can be realized sooner.

Instead, a new parish hall will be constructed to allow our religious education, youth groups and other parish ministries to meet more easily and comfortably. This plan also calls for the renovation for our existing building into a true worship space worthy of our Lord. This decision, guided by the Holy Spirit, was not determined hastily.

PARISH HALL DISCERNMENT

- Fall 2014 • Parish office and adoration chapel construction completed.
- Spring 2015 • Idea for parish hall plan presented to staff and Parish Council with unanimous support for further exploration
Parish leaders meet with Diocese of Phoenix Office of Buildings and Properties
Local architect, with experience with Catholic churches in the area, consulted
- Fall 2015 • Architect provides parish with initial sketches and estimated costs
After review of sketches and cost, the Finance Council, Parish Council and staff offered unanimous approval
- Spring 2016 • Met with the Diocese of Phoenix about initiating a capital campaign
Discussed a potential capital campaign with the Steier Group, a Catholic fundraising firm
- Fall 2016 • Underwent parish-wide planning study conducted by the Steier Group
After reviewing planning study findings, the Finance Council, Parish Council and staff again offered unanimous support



This new plan carries a number of benefits. First, this process will take far less time to complete. Next, constructing a parish hall gives Saint Mary Magdalene much-needed space to further grow and expand its ministries. This plan is also the most fiscally responsible, as we intend to complete this project without accumulating additional debt. The savings on loan payments will be significant. To give you perspective, our parish has already spent more than \$1 million **in interest alone** on the loan taken out to build the existing space. Furthermore, our parish need not spend \$10,000 each Christmas and Easter to rent tents for Masses. As was evident this Christmas, this will be most beneficial on holidays when the Lord blesses us with challenging weather! Finally, and most importantly, our church can be used for the sole purpose of worshipping our Heavenly Father.

Our parish family can now turn our vision into reality. We are currently working with the Steier Group, a Catholic fundraising firm, to prepare for our upcoming campaign. During this time, we are recruiting and training volunteers, and compiling all the information you will need to consider an investment in our parish's future. If you are interested in volunteering for our cause, I invite you to reach out to Christian Warneke, our representative from the Steier Group, at cwarneke@steiergroup.com or (402) 981-5219.

If you have any further questions, I invite you to visit the parish website, where a list of frequently asked questions has been published under the 'Campaign' tab. Should you have any further questions, feel free to contact me at the parish office.

May God bless you and your family,

FR. WILL SCHMID



*for the glory
of the*
Risen Lord
a campaign for Saint Mary Magdalene