DIVINE MERCY PARISH Preserving Our Sacred Heritage

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Oh, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I consecrate myself to Your Divine Mercy without reserve. May I be all yours. Remove from me whatever would separate me from you. In your mercy, provide for all our needs.

Oh, blood and water, which gushed forth from the heart of Jesus as a fountain of mercy for us, I trust in you.

A Message from Fr. Martin Pitstick, Pastor



Dear parishioners and friends,

Divine Mercy is an historical place of worship that represents the heart of our parishioners and their sacrifice of faith. Those who enter our church experience an awe and closeness to God. Our bell tower has defined the skyline of Bellevue for 125 years as a beacon of faith and hope, and its bells can be heard throughout the community. Our church is a living testament to the labor, generosity and sacrifice of previous generations. Now it is our turn to preserve this sacred heritage for the next generation.

We recognize and are grateful for the sacrifices that our life-time parishioners have made. However, the time has come to replace our roof, repair damage and make meaningful upgrades to our facilities. This conclusion is supported by 90% of Divine Mercy Parishioners who were interviewed during a feasibility study, and who indicated they would consider supporting the campaign with a personal gift or pledge, along with faith-filled Catholics from outside our parish. After considering our need, and the response of the community, Bishop Foys has granted us approval to begin a capital campaign. The theme selected for this campaign is "Preserving Our Sacred Heritage."

Our goal is to raise \$1.5 million dollars. Our top priority is roof replacement and repair and repainting of walls and ceilings. Secondary needs include: increasing handicapped accessibility to restrooms and throughout our campus, developing the usability of our church undercroft, maintaining our stained glass windows and upgrading sanctuary flooring.

Fr. John Kroger and Tom Rechtin have graciously agreed to serve as Campaign Honorary Chairmen. David Fessler has agreed to lead the campaign as General Chairman. We have engaged Scott Lubansky as our professional campaign consultant. Scott is well known in the area for leading successful campaigns. The campaign will be assisted by a blue-ribbon team of parish volunteers, led by Toni Zilliox. Our Cost Oversight Committee will insure that practical and cost-effective solutions are implemented and I am very pleased that Charlie Cleves has agreed to head this committee. In all of these areas, we are blessed to have the best possible leadership guiding our campaign.

As you read through this brochure and become familiar with the campaign, I hope you will see this as an opportunity to make an important difference. Not all can give equal pledges, but all can make an equal sacrifice.

"Give in proportion to what you own. If you have great wealth, give alms out of your abundance; if you have but little, do not be afraid to give alms even of that little." — Tobit 4:8

Ultimately, this campaign is not about buildings: it is about "Preserving Our Sacred Heritage" that has been entrusted to us. It is about preserving our Faith and meeting the spiritual, educational, and social needs of generations to come. I urge you to allow the Holy Spirit to guide you as you prayerfully consider your gift.

A Letter from David Fessler, Campaign Chairperson



I was honored when Father Martin asked me to chair the Preserving our Sacred Heritage campaign. I immediately agreed because this parish has been such a significant part of my life and the life of my family. I know Father Martin and the church need my time, talent and financial support now more than ever. I am confident that all members of our parish will see the need for this; I know I sure do. The roof is deteriorating and leaking, our walls, ceilings, and the Lippert Art surrounding the sanctuary are being severely damaged. This is our parish, and we cannot simply stand idle and let our church deteriorate before our eyes. It is now our turn to act just as our forbearers did so many years ago. I pray everyone will be generous in responding to this great need.

A Rich History

In the 145-year history of our churches in Bellevue, we have baptized 11,270 souls, 7,100 at Sacred Heart and 4,170 at St. Anthony, which has now become a part of Divine Mercy Parish. We have educated approximately 5,850 children (3,900 at Sacred Heart and an estimated 1,950 at St Anthony), many of whom have gone on to become leaders in our communities. Twenty-nine sons of our Bellevue churches have become priests and one, a religious brother. Fifty-five of our daughters have become religious sisters. We have served the poor of our community through St. Vincent de Paul and have given hope to countless thousands through the loving ministry of Jesus Christ.

1870 The town of Bellevue incorporated with 381 inhabitants. Catholic families went by horse and buggy to St. Stephen's in Newport.

1874 While the population of Bellevue was equally divided between families of German and Irish heritage, the German speaking population led the initiative to build the first Church in Bellevue. This new, one-story building was dedicated under the patronage of Sacred Heart of Jesus. This first church sat where the convent building is now. At the time, there were 40 Catholic families in Bellevue.

1875 Two months after the erection of the church, a school was opened with 50 children. The same one-story building was used for both the church and school. Eleven months after the opening of the church, it received its first resident pastor, a native of Germany. Word spread that Sacred Heart had a German priest and this attracted more German speaking families to the parish. Mass was said in Latin but German was used for preaching and religious instruction. The school used both German and English in their classes until the First World War in 1917, when the parish eliminated the use of German as a patriotic gesture.

1876 A second floor was added to the church building for the worship services and the first floor was used for the school. Three sisters of Notre Dame were the first teachers.

1889 Fifteen years after the establishment of Sacred Heart Church, St. Anthony's was erected just one

1892 After Sacred Heart's congregation grew five-fold in its first sixteen years, Fr. William Cassander engaged architect Louis Pickett of Cincinnati to build a new church. In 1892 the cornerstone was laid and this beautiful gothic structure, with flying buttresses, was dedicated in 1893. The church was constructed of brick and the exterior dimensions are 141' long x 58' wide. The apex of the roof is 71' high. The length of the church is 25' shorter than was planned to keep within a budget of \$25,000 for the church. The total cost of the church and its furnishings came in just over \$30,000.

Our church still has the original slate roof, a Virginia Buckingham slate that was the best slate available in the world, laid at a steep pitch to increase its lifespan.

1894 The larger of our two bells was purchased from Vanduzen Tift of Cincinnati for \$600. It weighs 3335 lbs., is 55" wide at the bottom and sounds an "E" note on the musical scale. An inscription on the bottom reads "Hertz Jesus Gloke" which translates to Heart of Jesus Bell. It can be heard at all points in the city to call all people, young and old, to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

1903 The second bell was purchased for \$300. It weighs 1000 lbs. and is 36" wide at the bottom. It has an inscription in both Latin and German in a gothic script that is no longer in use. In Latin: "Holy Mary pray for us." In German: "St. Mary's Bell, donated by widow Maria Paul, June 1903."





1915 A violent wind storm twisted the spire beyond repair. It was replaced with the present more durable curved, octagonal, rounded cupola. Clocks face in all four directions and have been updated multiple times over the years.

1920-1924 Golden Jubilee

Renovations Most of the distinctive beauty of our church was added during this four-year period, under the leadership of Fr. Aloysius Roell. The total cost was \$58,737, but when you adjust for inflation, this comes to \$878,124 in 2019 dollars.

A new front with three entrances and a side entrance were installed. The exterior of the church was finished with imitation Indiana limestone and the copper was added to the roof. The hand carved high altar and Mary and Joseph's side altars were imported from Austria. The Main altar has scenes from the Old Testament and features statues of saints and angels with a beautiful statue of Jesus revealing his sacred heart crowning the apex. This symbolizes how through the prayers of the Mass, the priest, representing Christ, leads the people of God into Heaven. There are two shrines in the back. One depicting our Sorrowful Mother. The second is the Purgatorial Shrine, depicting the poor souls in purgatory, the Sacrifice of our Lord on Calvary, and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. This three-quarter size relief shows how the Mass applies the merits of Christ upon the cross to help the souls in Purgatory attain their eternal reward in Heaven. It also shows how Mass was celebrated prior to the Second Vatican Council. The beautiful side-wall murals, depicting scenes from the life of Jesus, were done by Artist Leon Lippert of Newport. The three murals over the sanctuary and the medallions on either side of the sanctuary were frescoed by Theodore Brasch. The sculpted stations of the cross were imported from Dusseldorf, Germany.

1930 The pulpit was added. It was originally raised on a pedestal and connected to the wall to the right of Mary's altar. An arched doorway was cut into the wall so that it could be entered from the side sacristy, but this was later sealed in the 1976 renovations.

1945 Fr. Merkle installed an electric system to ring the bells. This was updated to an electronic system on 1976 and in 2017 an electronic controller was installed.

1950 The stained glass windows were originally simpler in design. They were replaced by the current windows in the early 1950's as part of restorations done by Msgr. Carl Merkle. The interior of the church was completely redecorated and repainted. To save money, they didn't replace the windows in places where they wouldn't be seen.

The new windows were designed with a protective storm glass on the outside with an air space between the outer, protective glass and the inner, stained glass. The 20 stained glass windows were designed and installed by a Wisconsin company following a geometric pattern that gives them a German look. The stained glass windows were hand crafted just as it was done in the middle ages. The glass is hand-blown with the coloring mixed in and imported in small sheets from England, Germany, and France. The pieces of glass are held together with Virginia lead. These panels are held in place with copper wire.

A state-of-the art Wick's pipe organ was installed in 1951. There are 1046 pipes with one valve each, which are electronically controlled. They range in size from 16' long and 1' in diameter to 6" long and ¹/₄" in diameter and relied on air from a fan system in the basement.





1974 the church was placed on the National Register of Historic places.

The church balcony is now usually only open for Christmas and Easter. Back in the day when the balcony was filled with adults, rumor has it the balcony would sag. In the 50's Fr. Merkle used to seat the first and second graders up in the balcony because they weighed less. That was when the parish had over 700 children in our school.

1976 The bells rang again with an upgrade to the bell ringing system. The pews were removed for a time to redo the church flooring with oak tongue and groove, covered by carpet. Outdoor lighting was installed and the sanctuary was redone with a new altar, facing the people.

1984 A solid-state switching system was installed to control the air flow for the Wick's pipe organ.

1990-92 The exterior of the church was waterproofed. The interior of the church was repainted, redecorated, and the electrical wiring and interior lighting were redone.

For the Centennial anniversary, an outdoor grotto of the Sacred Heart was added to the courtyard.

2003 St. Anthony and Sacred Heart merged to become Divine Mercy Parish. Although the name of the parish changed with the merger, under cannon law in the Catholic Church, once a church building has had a name for 100 years, it cannot be changed. So, the name of the church remains Sacred Heart Church, but the parish is now called Divine Mercy Parish. The Divine Mercy shrine in the back corner of the church was added after the merger.

2019 We have a number of positive signs of life in our parish:

- 27 new households have registered in the last 12 months
- We have begun a new ministry to young adults (ages 18-39) in the area with:
 - First Friday Candlelight Masses (over 150 attended our last one)
 - Young Adult Socials
 - Monthly small group meetings
- We are averaging 20 men attending our monthly men's breakfasts
- Our school enrollment is holding steady
- We have a new Day Care program at our school as well as a new After School Program
- We will be adding a Pre-K at our Bellevue campus in the Fall
- A new order of Franciscan Friars have moved into our convent
- Our Religious Education Program (CCD) has been revived and is flourishing
- We have an active St. Vincent de Paul conference serving the local poor
- Our finances have been in the black for the last 4 years
- We are debt free and have a balanced budget

Financials

2017-2018 Divine Mercy **Revenue \$370,925**

2017-2018 Divine Mercy **Expenses \$347,987**



* \$34,829 of the \$54,231 that was listed as "Diocesan Collections" was actually money collected for, and remitted to, the DPAA campaign. Almost all of this came back to the parish free of diocesan assessment (see "DPAA Rebate).

Total Expenses.....\$347,987



Preserving Our Sacred Heritage

Our Sacred Mission

Every parishioner and friend of our parish is needed for the success of our Campaign. Everyone can do something:

- 1. All can pray
- 2. All can ask God what He wants you to do to help our campaign succeed
- **3.** All can spread the word to alumni and friends of our parish
- **4.** Some can give more and we humbly rely on your generosity
- **5.** Many can volunteer, but they may need to set aside some other things to do this
- 6. Most everyone can sacrificially give something each year in a five-year pledge

The bottom line is: **we need everyone's participation!** Please do not approach this as a spectator sport!

Prayer is so important for this is primarily God's work and we must rely first on his help and guidance. Everyone is encouraged to take a prayer card and pray the Consecration to Divine Mercy daily for the success of the campaign and for your own needs. This campaign seeks to raise \$1.5 million to meet our overall needs. This may seem daunting but when we realize that we rely first on God, and not on our own strength, then we can be confident that God will supply the grace to do what he calls us to do. We must, however, be willing to do our part!

As the money is raised, we will address our most urgent needs first according to the phases outlined below. In order to move forward with each phase, the diocese requires us to have 50% of the money needed on hand and 50% in pledges.

We have established a Cost Oversight Committee of qualified parishioners to analyze, prioritize and implement the expenditures of each phase. We will be working closely with the Building and Maintenance Office of the diocese and following all diocesan policies for capital projects. All contracts must be signed by the bishop before proceeding.

Our top priority is roof replacement and repair and repainting of walls and ceilings. Secondary needs include: increasing handicapped accessibility to restrooms and throughout our campus, developing the usability of our church undercroft, maintaining our stained glass windows and upgrading sanctuary flooring.

A Note from Our Cost Oversight Committee Chairman, Charlie Cleves

I accepted Father's invitation to chair the Cost Oversight Committee because I wanted to insure that the funds we raise are spent wisely. Today, there are more cost effective alternatives in roofing materials that what was available 125 years ago. And we can do this in a manner that still preserves the historic look of this sacred church that I grew up in and hope to pass on to my grandchildren. We are also examining affordable ways to provide handicapped accessibility to our church restrooms and undercroft, which will serve the life of our parish in a variety of ways. Lastly, we are monitoring our stained glass windows and putting a plan in place to ensure they will be kept in good repair. We want to preserve what is sacred through practical and cost effective modernization.



Timeline and Priority of Needs

Phase 1 | Immediate Needs (2019)

\$1,000,000

- Roof
- Steeple
- Water damage repair
- Painting

Our roof is 125 years old and leaking in many areas. The most obvious water damage can be seen on the ceiling in the balcony, but also in the server's room above the sacristy and other areas. When you go up into the levels above the church ceiling and into the bell tower, you can see it leaking profusely, even during a light rain.

For years we have been doing patch repairs every couple of years, spending tens of thousands of dollars. The needed roof repairs are coming faster than we can keep up with them and, each time, it is expensive to get onto this steep roof without damaging the other slate.

While many of the individual slates on the roof may last another 100 years, the fasteners, which attach the slate have degraded and slate has been coming loose. Pictures of the roof show how many slate have needed to be replaced and sections where it has been caulked. There are also cracked slate where ice from the top roof has fallen onto the lower roof and damaged it. The wood underneath the slate is missing pieces where it has been nailed into too many times and there are pieces of the wood that have rotted. As there is no underlayment between the slate and the wood roof, there are sections several inches wide where you can see slate with no wood underneath.



The copper flashing is 95 years old and has a life expectancy of no more than 90 years. It is pin holed and has been coming loose section by section.

After careful analysis by our building committee, in consultation with roofing experts and the diocese, the consensus is that we need to replace the roof and redo the copper on the steeple's cupula dome.

While the scaffolding is up, we will also want to paint the trim around the windows, which is in poor condition, and water proof the imitation Indiana limestone exterior surface of our church.

Originally, the roof had snow guards that would prevent the snow and ice from sliding off the roof in big chunks. Most all of these have come loose over the years and it is very dangerous every winter when sheets of ice come crashing down on our sidewalks. We are very fortunate that no one has been injured by this. With the new roof, we will re-install the necessary protective snow guards on the roof to minimize any danger from ice coming off our steep roof.

For the interior of church, we will need to repair the water damage and repaint.





Phase 2 | Modernization and Accessibility (2020)

\$350,000

- Handicapped access
- Undercroft usability
- Lippert paintings



After we have addressed the urgent needs of Phase I, we want to modernize and update the accessibility of our campus. We would like to install a door opener for the side of church for easier access by the elderly and those in wheelchairs. Handicapped accessibility to our parish offices also needs to be updated, since, per diocesan directive, we can no longer use the ramp that comes up to the residential portion (dining room) of the rectory. We have an economical plan to extend the existing ramp a little further, where a handicapped entrance can be made out of a window of the parish office meeting room. Perhaps the most significant need, however, is for an elevator, which will not only provide handicapped access to our restrooms, but also allow us to use our church basement in many ways:

- Parish socials after Mass (i.e. coffee and donuts)
- Youth and Young Adult Ministry activities
- Bible study and other small groups (mom's, senior card playing)
- Babysitting during Mass
- Adult Ed area with TV and instructional materials for Sacramental preparation, RCIA
- Movie nights
- Bridal preparation room before weddings

This space, which would be reserved for parish use, offers unique benefits for small to medium size groups in its closeness to church and the ability to leave out our display.

Phase 3 | Future Needs (2021 and beyond)



\$150,000

- Stained glass windows
- Sanctuary flooring
- Misc. upgrades

While our stained glass windows are buckling in some places, it is thought that the need is not yet urgent. We are not sure whether we can wait 5, 10 or 20 years but the cost will be significant when the time comes. We need to monitor and begin setting aside funds for this expense.

The original sanctuary floor was a beautiful hard surface. When it was extended for the new altar after Vatican II, both sections were covered over with carpet since they did not match. Now, the carpet is worn out and we are thinking about restoring the church to its original beauty with one complete, hard surface floor. There are other projects (upgrading church AC refrigerant, plumbing issues, hall remodeling) for which we should also begin setting aside funds.



For most Divine Mercy Parishioners, the **Preserving Our Sacred Heritage** campaign represents the first time we will be asked to consider giving sacrificially to support urgent and critical needs of our beloved church. I am honored to be part of this campaign. I ask you please to reflect on the many blessings Divine Mercy Parish has bestowed on all of us. This Parish is our church, our school, our family, our children, our future. This is where we come to pray, worship and receive the wonderful gift of Jesus.

It is up to us... our time, our talents and our treasures... to support it. Jesus tells us that everything we have is a gift and ought to be given as a gift. If we view everything we do as building up the Kingdom of God, we will always accomplish more. Many years ago, my husband, Jude and I began to understand that when God is in the forefront of your heart – when you put Him above all other things – everything else falls into place. We do put our trust in God... and it seems everything else flows more smoothly. We are only returning to God the gifts he has given to us. No matter how much we give to him, it has all come from him in the first place. I ask you to pray about the treasures you have and how you share them and that you can be generous in your response to support this campaign.

My prayer is this campaign will be successful to make the critical improvements needed to our beautiful church so that it allows our children's children and many more generations to call Divine Mercy Parish their home.

- Toni Zilliox, Lead Gift Chairperson

How Much Should I Give?

This is the question most often asked in a capital campaign. It would be impossible to suggest an "average gift" that would be equitable for all. In estimating the type of giving necessary to meet the \$1.5 million in parish needs it is clear there must be many advanced gifts and pledges ranging from \$5,000 up to \$100,000+.

Experience and analysis of similar campaigns tells us that success can be predicted when results from leadership gifts resemble the guidelines offered in the following table:

Size of pledge	Monthly cost	# Gifts needed	Providing
\$250,000	\$4,167	1	\$250,000
\$50,000	\$833	3	\$150,000
\$25,000	\$417	4	\$100,000
\$15,000	\$250	10	\$150,000
\$10,000	\$167	20	\$200,000
\$7,500	\$125	25	\$187,500
\$5,000	\$84	25	\$125,000
Below \$5,000		30	\$50,000

Total pledge	5 annual payments of	10 semi-annual payments of	20 quarterly payments of	60 monthly payments of
\$100,000	\$20,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$1,667
\$75,000	\$15,000	\$7,500	\$3,750	\$1,250
\$50,000	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$833
\$25,000	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$1,250	\$417
\$15,000	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$750	\$250
\$10,000	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$167
\$7,500	\$1,500	\$750	\$375	\$125
\$5,000	\$1,000	\$500	\$250	\$84

For the purpose of writing checks or making any other gifts, please make checks payable to: Divine Mercy Capital Campaign.

Donors are encouraged to make their first pledge payment at the time the initial pledge is made. However, the campaign will honor the pledge payment schedule the donor wishes. Regular scheduled payments will begin within 60 days of Divine Mercy receiving the pledge form or documentation of the pledge. Due to the constantly changing nature of tax laws, donors may want to consult a tax or legal advisor regarding the pledge and pledge payments.

Q&A

1. How did we arrive at the costs associated with the campaign?

The Diocese of Covington in cooperation with the Cost Oversight Committee has carefully reviewed and evaluated all costs associated with the proposed project. The cost oversight committee is being chaired by Divine Mercy Parishioner Charlie Cleves.

2. Will we be installing new slate on the roof?

Probably not. The cost oversight committee is looking at all of the modern alternatives before deciding on what product we are going to use. There have been many advances in product technology and fastening systems which make new products easier to install and more cost efficient. These products are typically 30% less expensive than slate reducing the cost of the roof insurance also.

3. Why do we need to install an elevator?

An elevator or suitable lift is needed for many reasons. First, we should always do everything possible to meet the needs of our handicapped and elderly population. Access to the restrooms must be improved. Providing increased access to the restrooms with an elevator or lift will also allow us to increase access to the undercroft of the church. This space has great future potential for educational classes, wedding preparation and other social gatherings and functions.

4. Will the new roof be installed by an engineer and will it be under warranty?

Yes, the Diocese requires all this work to be handled professionally, under contract. There will be a warranty on the new roof.

5. With our church on the Historical Register, will there be any problems with what we want to do?

No. We have checked with the Historical Commission and they do not foresee any issues.

6. Why do we need to upgrade the flooring in the sanctuary?

Over the years there have been structural and cover changes to the sanctuary flooring. The current flooring structure is not level and the covering are worn and stained carpet. While structural upgrades must be made, we would like to cover the floor with a hard surface that will blend better with the aesthetics of our church. A hard surface will also be easier to maintain.

7. Do we really need to pledge? Why not just a one-time gift?

One-time gifts are important and appreciated. However, pledging over a five-year period allows people the opportunity to give more over time. The campaign will require many gifts at the \$2,500, \$5,000, \$10,000, and \$15,000 level. Most people do not have the resources to give these larger amounts as a one-time gift. Therefore, we are encouraging people to consider the five-year pledge. This is the first time in many decades Divine Mercy has initiated a capital campaign. Five-year pledges allow people to give more over time than most can give as a one-time gift. Pledging also allows us to plan and budget the project financing.

8. How will the project be financed, when will these projects happen?

The church will need fifty percent (50%) of the project cost in hand before the Bishop will approve construction. The parish will work with the Diocese or with conventional lenders once the Diocese has approved construction. Payments on Campaign pledges, parish savings and bridge financing will all be a part of the project financing.

9. How can we track the progress of the campaign?

More information and updates can be found on our website, **dmsbcatholic.com** and in our church bulletin. Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,

and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Each must do... without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

God is able to make every grace abundant for you.

You are being enriched in every way for all generosity for the administration of this public service.

Not only supplying the needs of the holy ones but also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God.

You are glorifying God.

Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

2 Corinthians 9:6-15

Divine Mercy Parish

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