



As part of our recent planning for the campaign, many people asked great questions about our parish, the projects we're planning, and how everything will work. To help answer those questions, we put together a list of **Frequently Asked Questions** (FAQs). You can also read it online at <https://sta2.org>. It includes important details about our goals, plans, and what comes next.

We want to keep everyone informed as we move forward. In the weeks and months ahead, we'll continue sharing updates about the campaign and the exciting possibilities it brings. In the meantime, we ask for your prayers – for our leaders and for everyone at St. Thomas the Apostle – as we take these hopeful steps into the future together.



STEWARDSHIP for
**SAINTS &
SCHOLARS**

ST THOMAS

What is a combined capital campaign?

Every parish will be participating in the Diocese of Lansing's *Stewardship for Saints & Scholars* (S3) capital campaign. By fundraising for our local initiatives as part of the diocesan campaign, St. Thomas the Apostle will not only help support Catholic education throughout the area, but it will capitalize on the increased visibility and momentum generated by a larger-scale effort. Running a combined campaign can also help increase overall donor support, which will help strengthen both St. Thomas and the wider Catholic community.

What will the S3 campaign help fund?

The *Stewardship for Saints and Scholars* (S3) campaign focuses on 4 areas:

- **On Mission (35%):** Attract, train and retain faithful teachers and administrators at Catholic schools
- **Affordable (30%):** Build financial aid and tuition assistance to reduce cost barriers to Catholic education
- **Accessible (15%):** Expand services to children with special needs within the Catholic school system
- **Local Initiatives (20%):** This 20% is returned to St. Thomas to be invested in local parish-sponsored initiatives and other urgent, local needs

What is the S3 target for St. Thomas the Apostle Church?

The *Stewardship for Saints & Scholars* (S3) target was set based on a calculation from the average of the parish's most recent three fiscal years of annual giving. Here is how it breaks down:



Total S3 goal for
St. Thomas the
Apostle Church

\$1,815,000



Amount returned
to St. Thomas
for local
initiatives (20%)

\$363,000



Once St. Thomas
reaches the
total S3 goal,

**100% of donations
will stay with
St. Thomas**



What are the goals of the combined campaign?

Our combined campaign has a total goal of \$3.3 million. This amount will allow us to fully support the *Stewardship for Saints & Scholars* (S3) initiative while also funding important needs here at St. Thomas the Apostle.

Here's how the \$3.3 million will be reached:

- **\$1.815 million** will go toward the S3 campaign, which supports Catholic education across the Diocese of Lansing.
- **\$1,039,500** will be invested in strengthening our school's endowment funds.
- **\$445,500** will be used for building maintenance and repair projects at St. Thomas church and school.

By making these repairs now, we're helping to save money and protect our parish and school for the next generation.

How did St. Thomas determine the final goals and priorities?

Following the insights from our recent planning study, we will move forward with a three-tier campaign approach. This structure allows us to meet our diocesan commitment, strengthen our school endowment and address essential building maintenance and repair needs at St. Thomas. Each tier is designed to mark a clear milestone of progress, helping to build momentum and a shared sense of achievement as we work toward our overall goal.

Who participated in the planning study?

Between May and June 2025, St. Thomas the Apostle church undertook a comprehensive planning study in partnership with the Steier Group, a respected Catholic fundraising and consulting firm. The purpose of the study was to gather feedback and assess parish support for a potential capital campaign. More than 170 parishioners generously shared their thoughts and perspectives through a variety of means, including in-person interviews, in-pew response forms, mailed surveys, and online questionnaires.



Is this the best timing for a fundraising campaign?

Based on the high percentage of those reporting that they would support the campaign (89% of respondents indicated that they would make a personal gift to the campaign), the Steier Group and parish leadership are confident that St. Thomas will achieve its fundraising goal. In addition, all parishes will run the S3 campaign and that is our only opportunity to tackle these local projects until the five-year pledge period ends in 2029. We simply cannot wait any longer.

What is the pledge period and where do my donations go?

Pledge payments will be made to *Stewardship for Saints & Scholars* over a five-year pledge period. Funds will be received, held, and distributed by the **Catholic Foundation in Lansing**. The Catholic Foundation will manage pledge redemption, including acknowledgment letters. No campaign funds will be used to support diocesan offices or programs.

How will donated funds be dispersed to St. Thomas?

As soon as pledge payments start to be received by the Catholic Foundation, St. Thomas will receive quarterly payments. During the period in which the S3 target is raised (\$1.815 million), the parish will receive quarterly payments of 20% of any funds collected during the previous quarter. Once the initial \$1.815 million has been received for the campaign, 100% of all subsequent pledge payments will be distributed to St. Thomas via quarterly payments.

How will this campaign affect my current offering?

The combined campaign will be a major effort, asking for gifts beyond regular weekly, monthly or yearly offertory contributions. Since the church and school will still need support for everyday expenses, parishioners are not being asked to reduce their usual giving. Instead, they are encouraged to consider making a special gift in addition to their regular offertory. Over time, campaigns like this have often led to increased offertory giving, as they inspire parishioners to deepen their commitment to the church.