

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

THE HOUSE THAT PRAYER BUILT



ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Dear St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Family:

Our seats are full and our ministries are growing!

In September 2008, we began celebrating weekend Masses at Frontier High School with about 200 families. In the subsequent seven years, we were able to raise enough funds to complete Phase I of our Master Site Plan. Our Masses began in our current church building in 2015. Since that time, we have grown to more than 2,500 households. Some of our Sunday Masses are beyond capacity in our 750-seat Church space and our ministries are requiring additional space.

In 2019, we kicked off a capital campaign to complete Phase II of our building project: a larger church which will accommodate more than 1,500 persons. Sadly, COVID forced us to suspend or greatly restrict our Masses and ministries in early 2020. While many households continued to honor their pledges, our capital campaign lost momentum. Now, with the pandemic largely behind us, our ministries have resumed and Mass attendance has grown to pre-COVID levels. Now is the time to restart Phase II of our building project.

Phase II will include not only a beautiful new church but a smaller daily Mass Chapel, increased parking and landscaped areas for social gatherings and other events. With a new church, we will be able to use our existing church space for parish gatherings and ministry groups. We will also have to widen Old Farm Road and complete the infrastructure of the property. Our first priority is to build the Church. Once that has been completed, we will move forward with the other projects to complete our Master Site Plan.

The cost of Phase II will be substantial. It is estimated that the church building, alone, will cost from \$12-\$15 million. This may seem out-of-reach but, with the generous response of our parishioners and with God's help, we can achieve this goal in a few years. All of this depends on the response of our parish households.

In the pages that follow, we share with you an overview of our plans. You can also check our parish website to see more renderings of the proposed church. My hope is that you will embrace the newly designed church and make a 5-year pledge towards its completion. Together, we can make the next phase of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish a reality!

I am grateful to all of our parishioners who have given of their time, treasure, and talent over the past 14 years. I have been blessed these past years by your love and support. I commit myself to serving you in the years ahead and as we see our parish grow.

Let us pray that God will continue to bless us and prosper us according to His will. With the intercession of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, may we reach our goals!

Sincerely in Christ,
Msgr Perry Kavookjian



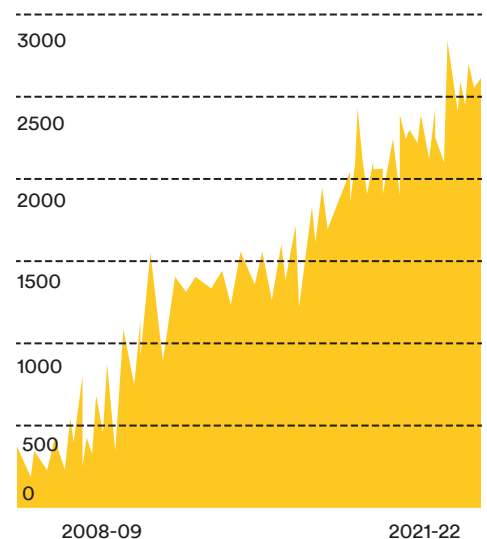
A Parish Overflowing

As the first Bakersfield Catholic Church to be built in over 40 years, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton has become the home of many families who live in Northwest Bakersfield. The area continues to undergo development and many homes are being built within our parish boundaries. In order to meet the needs of the Catholic faithful in this area, we need to think big! We need to develop our property in such a way that we can accommodate growing ministries.

This year alone, we have seen a tremendous increase of young people in our religious education program, our youth ministry and even in our Children's Choir! Our adult formation programs are growing. We have multiple bible studies and large organizations for women and men. We just started our own Boy Scout Troop and are looking to offer more ministries for engaged couples, married persons, and seniors. There are some new ministries that can and should be developed but there is not enough space to accommodate them. We have also seen an increase in our Mass attendance.

We need to begin looking at how our parish can serve the local Catholic population for the next several decades.

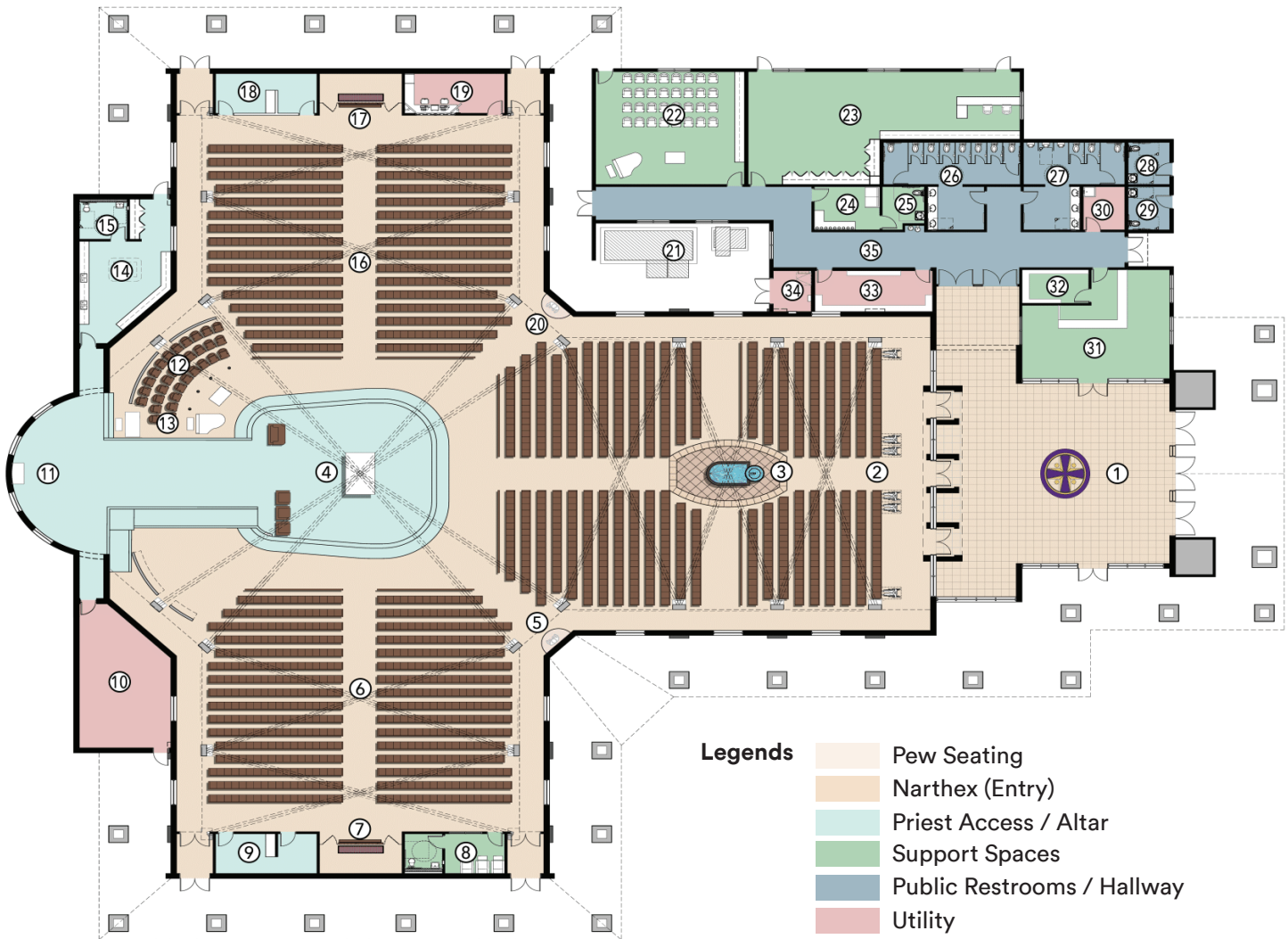
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton family registration growth



HERE IS A LIST OF SOME OF THE MINISTRIES OUR PARISH OFFERS:

- Bible Studies
- Children's Religious Education
- Junior High and High School Youth Groups
- Young Adult (College) Ministry
- Knights of Columbus
- Ladies Ministry Fellowship
- Ministry to the Sick
- Ministry to the Poor and Homeless
- Liturgical Ministries
- Choirs
- Prayer Groups
- Prison Ministry
- Christian Initiation of Adults
- Child Care
- Mom's Group
- Grief Support

NEW CHURCH FLOOR PLAN



- Legends**
- Pew Seating
 - Narthex (Entry)
 - Priest Access / Altar
 - Support Spaces
 - Public Restrooms / Hallway
 - Utility

Floor Plan Key

- | | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Narthex / Floor Logo | 11. Tabernacle | 20. Shrine / Statue - TBD | 30. Janitor |
| 2. Nave | 12. Choir Seating | 21. Equipment Yard | 31. Gift Shop |
| 3. Baptismal Font | 13. Piano / Organ | 22. Choir Rehearsal | 32. Gift Shop Storage |
| 4. Predella | 14. Sacristy | 23. Child Daycare | 33. Storage |
| 5. Shrine / Statue - TBD | 15. Sacristy Restroom | 24. Bride's Room | 34. Electrical Room |
| 6. Transept - South | 16. Transept - North | 25. Bride's Restroom | 35. Support Hallway |
| 7. South Chapel | 17. North Chapel | 26. Women's Restroom | |
| 8. South Quiet Room | 18. North Reconciliation Room | 27. Men's Restroom | |
| 9. South Reconciliation Room | 19. A / V Room | 28. Family Restroom | |
| 10. Storage | | 29. Family Restroom | |



The success of our Building Project rests on:

† EVERY PRAYER † EVERY SACRIFICE † EVERY PLEDGE

Prayer For Our Building Project

Almighty God

We are grateful for the abundance of blessings you have showered on our parish family.

For what has been accomplished, we thank you.

For the work that lies ahead, we ask your guidance.

Help us to serve you faithfully in our brothers and sisters.

Bring success to the work of our hands.

Grant this through the Intercession of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

and in the name of your only Son, Jesus Christ, who lives forever and ever.

AMEN.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN PHASE II?

Phase II will be divided into three different projects. **The first project** will be the church building itself. The church will seat more than 1,500 people. It will include a sacristy, bridal room, choir rehearsal room, expanded child care, confessionals, restrooms, narthex (lobby), gift shop, storage space, audio-visual room and more. **A second aspect** of Phase II will be a free-standing chapel that will seat 150 people for daily Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, Baptisms, smaller weddings and funerals. **The third aspect** will be an outdoor amphitheater, grass area for picnics and outdoor events.

HOW MUCH MONEY IS NEEDED?

It is estimated that the main church will cost between \$12-\$15 million. We already have close to one-third of that amount in our secured Building Fund thanks to the ongoing contributions of parishioners these past several years.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I PLEDGE?

Every member of our parish should prayerfully consider the sacrifice that God is calling them to make in order to reach our goal. Of course, some will be able to give more and others much less, but if we each sacrifice what we can, we will soon have a new church to accommodate our needs.

HOW LONG IS THE PLEDGE PERIOD?

We are asking everyone to consider making a 5-year pledge. Some are continuing to pay on their previous pledges. We thank them for this! Others have not yet made a pledge. We ask you to consider doing this. The pledge is not legally binding. If you need to change your pledge amount you will be free to do that. You can also make donations at any time towards the Building Project.

DOES MY PLEDGE REPLACE MY REGULAR SUNDAY OFFERING?

No. The Building Fund is a separate donation. The parish has ongoing expenses that must be met. We ask that you consider how much you can give to the Building Project while continuing your weekly donation to the parish.

CAN I MAKE MY PLEDGE PAYMENTS ELECTRONICALLY?

Yes, you can indicate this on the pledge envelope. The parish office will be in touch with you about how to do this.

WHERE DOES MY PLEDGE MONEY GO?

All pledges and any donations made to the Building Project remain in a secured fund and are not touched or taxed by the Diocese of Fresno.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WILL THE DIOCESE LOAN US MONEY FOR THE PROJECT?

The Diocese requires that most of the funds be raised by the parish before they will sign off on construction. As we approach our goal, it is possible that the Diocese will loan us the remainder of the cost so that we can begin construction. We will have to pay off any loan after we occupy the new church.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO OUR EXISTING CHURCH SPACE?

All of the religious furnishings, artwork, windows, etc. in the current church space will be moved and incorporated into the new church. The current church space will become a social hall for special events, ministry groups and more.

WILL THE STYLE OF THE NEW CHURCH BE TRADITIONAL OR CONTEMPORARY?

As you can see from the renderings we have provided, the new church will be traditional in many ways—from its shape to its furnishings. The primary symbols of our Catholic faith will be present in the new church—crucifix, tabernacle, altar, stained glass windows, Stations of the Cross, confessionals, statuary, candles and more. The exterior of the new church will be styled so as to fit in with our current building.

DO WE STILL HAVE PLANS TO BUILD A SCHOOL?

Plans for a school were drawn into our first Master Site Plan. It is uncertain that a school will be built in the near future. It will be up to the next generation of parishioners to make that decision.

WILL THERE BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE DONATIONS IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE?

As we approach our financial goal for the new church, opportunities will be presented for people to make Memorial Gifts in memory of a loved one. Until then, all money donated will go towards the completion of the building itself.





For more information

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