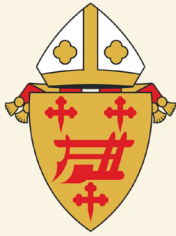


PRESERVING OUR
MOTHER
CHURCH

CATHEDRAL BASILICA
CAPITAL PROJECTS CAMPAIGN





A Mother Church for Us All

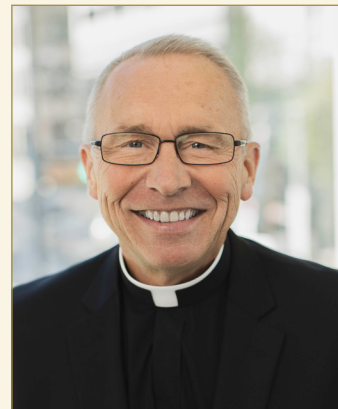
We often hear the term “mother church,” but what does it mean? Well, a mother cares for her children: feeds them, heals them, guides them, and watches proudly as they grow. The Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains is mother to us all because she too nurtures us in these ways.

It is because of this mother church that we find nourishment and healing in the Sacraments celebrated here or celebrated in our home parish by the priests and deacons ordained here. It is here that we experience uplifting music and beauty that inspires us and calls our minds to higher things. It is in this iconic church that our Catholic community found its place in the story of the great cities, towns and region that comprise the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Whether you are a parishioner, daily Mass attendee, community leader, Catholic of the archdiocese, or one who loves this particular church and her history, we invite you to be a part of her future. Please consider a gift to support the Cathedral and help restore, preserve, and elevate this sacred space—our mother church—for generations to come.



Most Reverend Robert G. Casey
Archbishop of Cincinnati



Very Reverend Jan K. Schmidt
Rector of the Cathedral Basilica

“For everything is from you,
and we only give you what we
have received from you.

1 Chronicles 29:14-16





Our Personal Connection to the Mother Church

For 180 years, the Cathedral Basilica of Saint Peter in Chains has stood as an outward sign of faith for the people of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. In addition, as our “mother church,” what happens here impacts each of us in some way.

Every liturgical or sacramental encounter in a diocese is connected to the cathedral. Regarding the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains, the vast majority of diocesan priests and deacons that preside at all of the sacred and sacramental rites celebrated in the archdiocese were ordained here. Every Baptism, Confirmation and Anointing of the Sick uses Holy Oils consecrated here. Every Mass we attend, every homily we hear, and every Confession we make, began when the Archbishop laid his hands upon them, ordaining them to serve the faithful. Our experience of the Sacraments and our faith is connected to what happens within the walls of this church.

The Catholic Church has the greatest mission in the world: the salvation of souls. This mission happens in our parishes, homes, and hearts, but it **BEGINS** with what happens in our Cathedral Basilica.



Our Vision

A Legacy to Renew, A Future to Inspire



Today, the Cathedral remains an iconic landmark in our city and is a testament to the enduring faith of Catholics of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. However, nearly 70 years have passed since the cathedral's last renovation. It is in urgent need of repair and restoration efforts, both to preserve the cathedral's beauty and ensure it remains the principal sacred space for the spiritual nourishment of current and future generations of Catholics in our archdiocese.

As stewards of the Cathedral, we believe God is calling us to invest in our vision for the future now to restore this sacred space and ensure that it is safe and accessible to all. Our hope is for a vibrant and welcoming environment for all in our archdiocesan community.

As part of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, we proclaim the goodness, beauty and truth of the Catholic faith that leads to peace, joy and fullness of life.



The Need

An architectural and engineering study identified multiple projects necessary to secure the long-term functionality, safety, accessibility, and beauty of the Cathedral. We have already implemented some of the most critical efforts needed to prevent further damage to the interior of the building, and now it is time to enter the next phase of the building restoration, focusing on:

1. Restoring Beauty

Repairing Decorative Plaster, Rebuilding Bronze Doors, and Revitalizing the Sanctuary.

2. Ensuring Our Safety and Accessibility

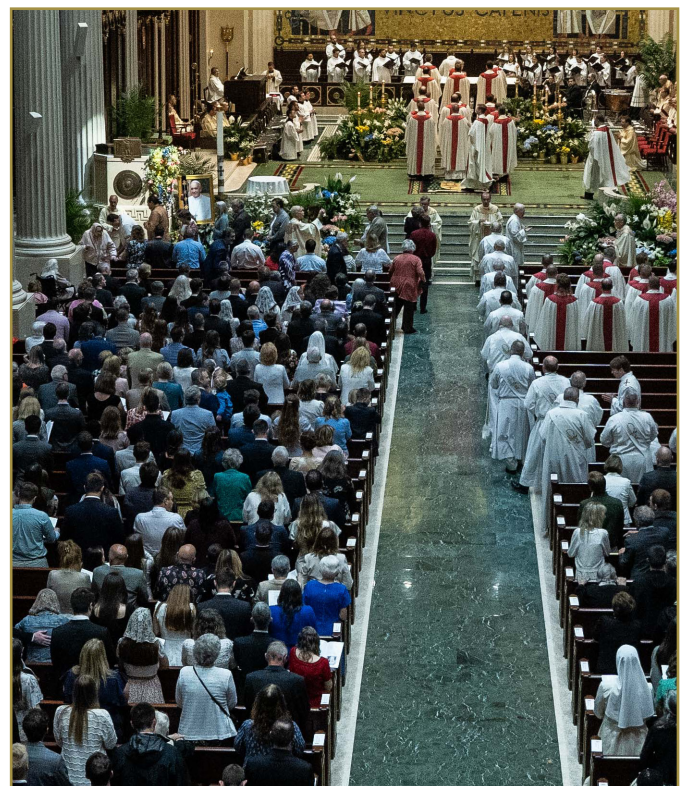
Addressing Building Security, Upgrading the Plaza and Parking, and Replacing the Elevators that are beyond repair.

3. Enhancing Our Sacred Space

Improving all Lighting and Replacing the failing Pipe Organ and enhancing the musical program with additional instruments commensurate with episcopal liturgical needs and fitting for a cathedral setting.

Together, these projects aim to steward our beautiful Cathedral and provide a vibrant and welcoming worship environment that endures for generations to come.

After gathering extensive community feedback and engaging in prayerful reflection, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati's leadership has decided to embark on a capital campaign to undertake the most urgent projects needed at this time to restore and preserve the Cathedral.



Restoring Beauty | \$5 million

- Repairing Decorative Plaster
- Rebuilding Bronze Doors
- Revitalizing the Sanctuary

As an iconic landmark in Cincinnati, the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains is known for its grand columns, sanctuary woodwork, large bronze doors, intricate decorative paintings, and its original high altar. These details make a profound impact on the physical beauty of the Cathedral and the spiritual and liturgical experience of those who enter.

Over the years, periods of neglect, lack of funding, and simply the passage of time have resulted in damage to the building's decorative plaster, issues with asbestos in the finishings, some destabilization and disintegration of the marble altar, and degradation of the building's seven pairs of bronze doors. Funding for these projects will allow the Cathedral to engage qualified experts in woodworking, painting and plaster work, masonry, bronze restoration and mechanics to address these issues.

With your support, we can restore the Cathedral's original majesty and return the doors to good working order, restore the sanctuary's woodwork, correct the engineering defect and replace the temporary altar top with the intended and necessary marble of the original design, and update the building's painting and plasterwork.



Ensuring Our Safety and Accessibility | \$3 million

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- Addressing Building Security
 - Upgrading the Plaza and Parking
 - Renovating the Elevators
-

Providing a welcoming environment and sanctuary for all who enter is critical to the mission of the Cathedral. Ensuring that our space is accessible and safe is essential to allowing those who enter to participate fully in worship and engage in personal prayer and reflection. This includes providing ample parking and clear wayfinding signs. With your help investing in safety and accessibility, we will level and resurface the parking lot that has degraded, provide systems for the Cathedral staff to begin managing the parking concession, and provide security, fencing, and signs to welcome visitors and reach the community with evangelizing and catechetical opportunities.

Additionally, we will upgrade our sound system to broadcast both indoors and outdoors for those occasions – such as liturgies for Easter Vigil, Blue Mass, Palm Sunday, and public funerals – when worshippers fill the plaza and portico. We will also renovate our three building elevators to address critical mechanical issues, lower energy waste, and address recurring service issues – ensuring that the elevators run smoothly and safely and continue making our building accessible to the elderly and those with disabilities.



Enhancing Our Sacred Space | \$12 million

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- Improving Sanctuary Lighting
 - Revitalizing the Pipe Organs
-

The Cathedral is a sacred space that ushers us into the presence of the Divine. The sanctuary provides space for contemplation, reflection, reverence, and awe. While lighting enhances the Cathedral's architectural beauty and guides our focus toward the altar, the choirs and pipe organs invite us into deep reflection, communal worship, and connection to Heaven and God. Together, these elements transform the Cathedral into a true place of worship where parishioners and visitors experience the beauty, truth and goodness of our Catholic faith.

The Cathedral's current lighting system provides insufficient light to support the liturgy and participation of the faithful. This also limits the Cathedral's ability to capture high-quality video for streaming. Replacing the Cathedral's 65 year old lighting system will not only increase the Cathedral's energy efficiency, but would allow for the creative use of lighting in liturgical celebrations and improve our video ministry to those who cannot attend the Cathedral in-person due to illness or other limiting factors.



*O praise him with the sound of the trumpet, praise him with lute and harp.
Praise him with trimbrel and dance, praise him with strings and pipes.*

— PSALM 150



Sketch of proposed rear gallery organ
by Flentrop Orgelbouw, the Netherlands

The Cathedral's current pipe organ has been deteriorating for several years. Despite multiple repairs, the pipe organ continues to have recurring problems. The parts needed for repairs are no longer manufactured. After thorough research by the Cathedral's organ committee, we have the opportunity to commission three new pipe organs: one for use in the Blessed Sacrament chapel, a second organ dedicated to supporting the Cathedral Basilica's stellar choral program, and a grand organ in the east gallery to support the many archdiocesan liturgies, concerts and other events held in the mother church of the archdiocese.

These new organs are modeled on the centuries-old tradition of European organ building that has a track record for longevity and reliability. These organs are estimated to last for at least 200 years with minimal maintenance. Along with providing a majestic sound for our sacred liturgies, they will also further the Church's outreach to support student artists at institutions such as the University of Cincinnati's College Conservatory of Music. Students will be inspired to pursue careers in sacred music, where there is a profound shortage of qualified musicians. World renowned artists will seek out our Cathedral for performance and recording opportunities, furthering the Church's mission of evangelization.



Sketch of proposed chapel organ
by Orgelbau Wech, Germany

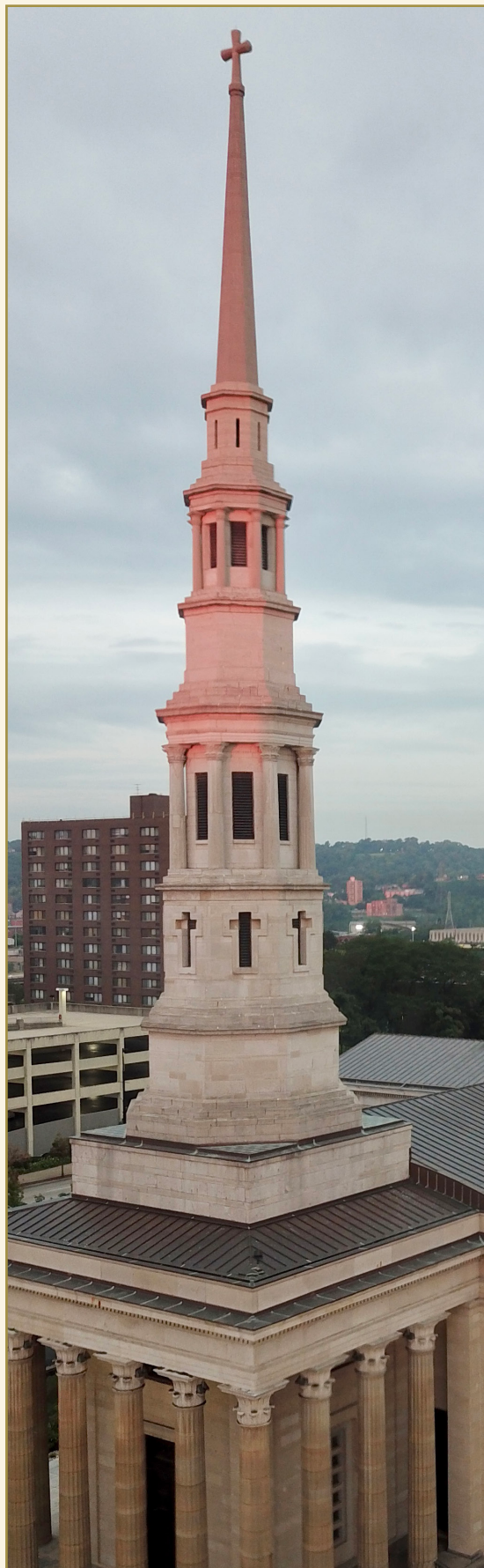


Your Role in Stewarding Our Iconic Cathedral Church

No particular church, including our own mother church, can thrive without looking forward to tomorrow. We know that future ministry at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains will require investing in the identified renovation and upgrade projects now, for the benefit of generations to come. Please consider joining us, in faith, as we answer this call to restore our beautiful Cathedral and preserve its place as the mother church in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati.

Please consider how you might

- ~ **PRAY** for the mission and ministry of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains.
- ~ **PLEDGE** your support and share your faith.
- ~ **PARTICIPATE** in stewarding this beautiful Cathedral and securing its future in the archdiocese.





Contact information

Very Reverend Jan K. Schmidt, Rector
Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter in Chains
325 W. 8th Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 263-6653
jschmidt@catholicaoc.org

