

A Message from Father Paul Ritt



Dear Friends in Christ,

For just over 80 years, our parish has been a pillar of faith, hope, and charity in the Lynnfield community. Our forebears aspired to create a vibrant faith community with a solid moral foundation and a firm commitment to serving others. Today we continue that tradition and find ourselves ready to begin an important new chapter in our journey together. As we seek to meet the needs of an ever-changing population, the Church is obligated to preach the Gospel to all who seek to love, know, and follow our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our beautiful church building, a sacred space to so many over the years, has been a place for us to gather in prayer for decades. It has served and continues to serve us well. But our campus now needs some attention, and as careful stewards of our faith home, we are also laying plans to secure our future and ensure that our church remains strong into the future through a parish endowment fund.

I believe the time has come to significantly enhance our facilities in order to more effectively carry out our mission, and to set aside funds to guarantee that mission for the future. In addition, we are called to support the work of the larger Church and inspire current and future generations of Catholics to reimagine what the Church can and should be. Through prayer, conversation, and research, we have decided to address these needs by participating in a capital campaign in conjunction with the Archdiocese, entitled *Inspiring Hope*. This extraordinary effort will be unlike any our parish or diocese have previously undertaken, and its success will depend on the prayerful participation of our loyal families and friends.

This capital campaign is for the sake of the mission which Christ gave to the Church, and that mission of sharing the Good News is even more compelling in difficult times. As society grows more secular, the Good News of Jesus needs to be heard.

We invite you now to learn more about this important milestone in our history, and we ask that you receive our message with an open heart. This is a time of great opportunity for our community, and we feel confident that with the support of the entire faithful Our Lady of the Assumption family, we will safeguard the legacy of Catholicism and enable our mission for decades to come.

Blessings to You,

Fr. Paul Ritt

Together, parishioners and clergy across our many communities are working tirelessly to revitalize the Catholic Church.

It is imperative we continue our collective mission to strengthen and grow in faith and community, to take up Christ's mantle and be daily examples of His love, to spread the Word of God, take care of each other, defend the defenseless, and actively lead the way forward into tomorrow.

Through the *Inspiring Hope* campaign for a stronger Church, Our Lady of the Assumption will be better-equipped to serve our families and visitors now and for years to come.



"The mission of the Church (is) to build a community of faith around the Word of God and the Eucharist... In a community of faith, we learn to worship our God, to forgive one another and to serve those around us... We must take care of each other."

— Cardinal Seán's Installation Homily, 2003



"The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ, joy is constantly born anew . . . I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come."

— Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 2013

Inspiring HOPE

Campaign for the
Future of Our Catholic Faith
Our Lady of the Assumption, Lynnfield



Our Lady of the Assumption Parish is undertaking a major campaign to address the pressing short- and long-term needs of our parish while also supporting the needs of Our Lady of the Assumption School.

We invite you to learn more about this historic initiative and how you can make a difference in the Church in the Lynnfield area and beyond by *Inspiring Hope* in the future of our Catholic Faith.



With Thanks to God

The extraordinary community of faith that we enjoy today is the result of decades of dedication and hard work by those who came before us. It is both our privilege and our responsibility to honor and continue that legacy each day. Our Lady of the Assumption was established in 1922 and built upon the sacrifices of working-class Catholics to serve Lynnfield and adjacent parts of Wakefield, Lynn, Saugus, and Peabody.

In the years that followed, our parishioners steadily worked together to build, expand, and care for our parish facilities—reimagining and repurposing much of our space along the way as the needs of the community evolved.

Today, Our Lady of the Assumption is a thriving faith community of over 2,400 families. We are a group of modern-day followers of Jesus, gathered in local community to love God and to serve others with skill, creativity, and passion. As we thank God for the tremendous blessings He has bestowed on us and turn our sights to the future, we do so humbled by the example of our predecessors and honored to carry forward their legacy.

As we look to the years ahead, we must be diligent in maintaining our current facilities, enhancing spiritual life, and perhaps most importantly, creating a foundation for the future vitality of our parish and school.

The projects outlined present an opportunity for everyone to become involved in a way that is appropriate for them, with pledges payable over time and through a variety of giving options.

We are all blessed with many treasures given to us by God. As stewards of these blessings, it is our responsibility to preserve and protect our spiritual community. The *Inspiring Hope* campaign will seek the participation of all God’s children at Our Lady of the Assumption to provide for the future of our faith community. To be successful, this effort will require the sacrifices of many, not just a few.

Our church is a gift from God, and as faithful followers of Christ, we must act in good stewardship to sustain its mission and broaden its reach. There are many exciting things ahead for our community, and this initiative will only position us to pursue further greatness.

How You Can Help Address Our Needs Now and for the Future

Following the completion of a campaign feasibility study in the summer of 2019, our parish leadership has developed a plan to renovate our campus and set aside funds to carry Our Lady of the Assumption into the future.

Our Goal: \$1,200,000

Securing the Future of OLA

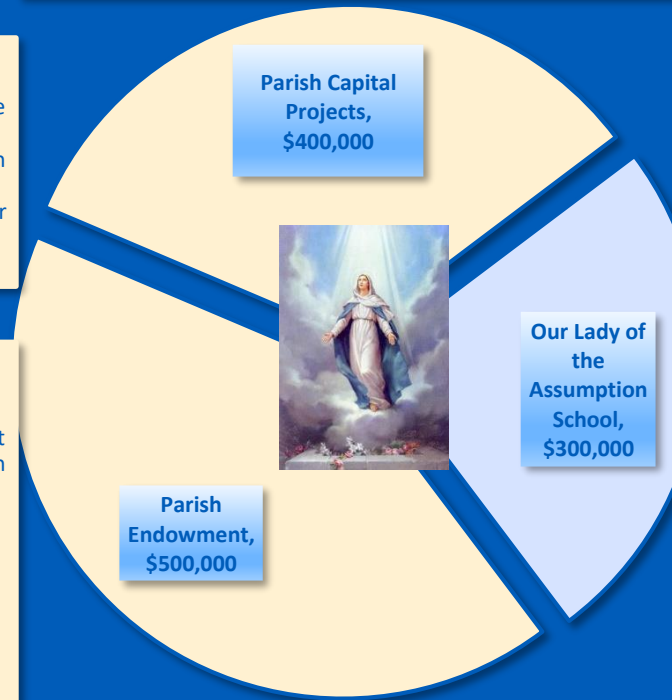
–Start the work of building an endowment that will one day provide a perpetual stream of income dedicated to ensuring the mission of Our Lady of the Assumption Parish. Income from this fund could be used to address maintenance, programming, evangelization or spiritual needs as they arise now and for the future.

Master Campus Improvement Plan

–Our campus has many pressing maintenance needs, but as careful stewards of our resources, an important first step in addressing them is the thoughtful creation of a master renovation plan.

–Setting aside funds now will ensure that we are able to commission an architect to determine potential for a renovation for our parish hall, future uses for the underutilized “white house”, and to conduct the reviews necessary to be sure that our church is structurally sound as we approach our 85th anniversary in 2022.

–By setting aside funds now, we can approach our long-term vision with greater intentionality, purpose, and community input and be ready to address projects as they arise.



Catholic Schools Special Initiatives

–It is important, as faithful Catholics, that we also use this opportunity to support the wider mission of our Church. Our Lady of the Assumption has decided to build on our commitment to Catholic Education by sharing a portion of the funds that we raise with the *Inspiring Hope* campaign’s School Special Initiatives Fund – which will in turn support Our Lady of the Assumption School.

–The School Special Initiatives Endowment created by *Inspiring Hope* will provide grants to schools, like Our Lady of the Assumption, that are focused on enhancing their educational and student experience offerings. Our Lady of the Assumption School is already a beneficiary of this fund through the *Inspiring Hope* campaign’s support of the Healey Foundation, which has offered a grant to Our Lady of the Assumption School dedicated towards strengthening the school and its students.

GIVING OPTIONS

- Multi-Year Pledges
- Credit Card
- Electronic Funds Transfer
- Stock Transfer
- Donor Advised Funds
- IRA Transfer
- Bequests & Annuities

EXAMPLE PLEDGE	ANNUAL INSTALLMENTS	MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS	DAILY EQUIVALENT
\$12,000	\$2,400	\$200	\$6.67
\$6,000	\$1,200	\$100	\$3.34
\$3,000	\$600	\$50	\$1.67
\$1,800	\$360	\$30	\$1.00

The *Inspiring Hope* campaign will be transformative for Our Lady of the Assumption Parish and School. Join us as we set out on a faith-filled journey to share the gospel of Jesus Christ, proclaiming our faith while visioning a strong and secure future. Thank you for your support.