

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish Catholic Strong Case Statement

Our Plan

The Church of Camden continues to reaffirm its 80-year commitment to promote the healing, redemptive, and teaching presence of Jesus Christ to those seeking solace, forgiveness, and instruction. We have followed Christ's invitation to love one another, to be a community of faith, and to share our gifts in a spirit of stewardship and gratitude. Today, we realize that additional resources are needed to meet our growing pastoral and temporal needs.

As vital and active members of the Diocese of Camden wishing to make our contribution, we are beginning the **Catholic Strong** Campaign to provide the resources needed to strengthen our parishes and schools, support our seminarians, retired priests, and deacons, grow our educational offerings and enhance our social services. A successful campaign will ensure the vitality of our faith communities and ultimately meet the evolving needs of our Diocese.

Our parish target goal is to raise a minimum of \$825,000, of which we will receive 70% (or a minimum of \$577,500), that will go toward parish needs. Additionally, we will receive 80% of all funds raised over our parish target. We will use our share to address the following needs:

Programs and Ministries **\$125,000**

Saint Thomas the Apostle Parish has a mission to spiritually care for the minds and bodies of our beloved community, from the increasing spiritual, psychological, and physical needs of the elderly and senior population to the needs of our current and future young families who live on our island. We plan to increase and enhance the quality and depth of our present pastoral outreach and to structure new programs that are both home-centered and parish-centered.

- Elderly and Senior Ministry
- Enhance and expand our current young families' programs, including developing new outreach programs
- Expand the spirituality within the parish community through parish missions as well as providing hands on religious pamphlets and prayer books to the congregation

Parish Future Upkeep and Maintenance **\$325,000**

- Repair/replace curbing and sidewalks
- Maintain exterior stone and stucco
- Maintain Sterling Place Priest Residence
- Replace church A/C condensers
- Install secure railings for staircases
- Repair Church Hall roof
- Install a new security camera system
- Upgrade sound, video, and technology system in Saint Philip Hall

Reserve Emergency Fund **\$127,500**

- For unforeseen repairs and capital expenditures

Total Need: \$577,500

While our needs are significant, we are confident that our parish family is prepared to lend generous support. The **Catholic Strong** Campaign will enable our parish to complete the visions set forth by past generations and ensure the church's presence in the lives of our children and grandchildren. As we have been blessed, let us act as stewards by supporting the campaign. Your prayers, generosity, and sacrifice will ensure our success.

In Jesus' Name,
Father Ed Maher