

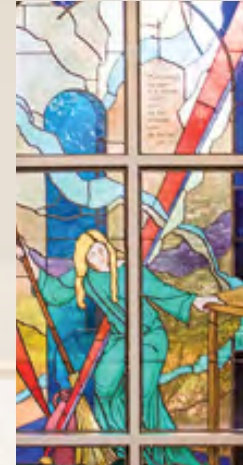
God's prodigal grace is given freely without end



Sacred Spaces

How we can be Rays of Mercy begins in, and draws its strength from, our sacred space—a place of quiet, a place to celebrate our relationship with God and a place to call home from Baptism through last sacraments. Beyond the church and administration building, we have many shrines and outdoor spaces providing places of meditation and comfort to those who seek the aid of Mary, St. Joseph, St. Patrick, and St. Peregrine.

Other buildings on our campus are used by our many ministries—youth, young adults, over



50, RCIA, and others. We host retreats, shawl ministry, mission circle, Jesus Day, Baptism and Confirmation celebrations, wedding receptions and funeral lunches. Our campus provides space for gathering and celebrating activities such as the festival, Founder's Day, and the blessing of pets on St. Francis' feast day.

We all refer to the "new church;" in reality, our new church is over 20 years old and needs some repairs and upgrades so it shelters our people well. Other buildings are celebrating 45+ birthdays. We are assessing the needs of the parish now and for the next 5–10 years so that we can provide the space needed for our ministries.

The Campaign

We are launching our **Rays of Mercy Campaign** to raise \$3.75M, which will be used to establish the Rays of Mercy Fund, a special fund to be used at the Pastor's discretion. The fund would be maintained as a separate account in the parish records.

As I write this article in late October, about \$1.3M already has been provided for this campaign—a blessed beginning! With your help, we can raise the additional \$2.45M over the 3 years (about \$3,600 total per family). Gifts of any amount are gratefully accepted.

I anticipate the need to obtain a line of credit since we will not have all pledges collected immediately. We will repay the loan from this fund. We also will use the funds to pay campaign costs.

I want to ensure that the parish continues to have a solid foundation from which to radiate mercy and compassion to all. I am grateful for all the blessings your presence in my life has brought to me and God's abundant blessings.

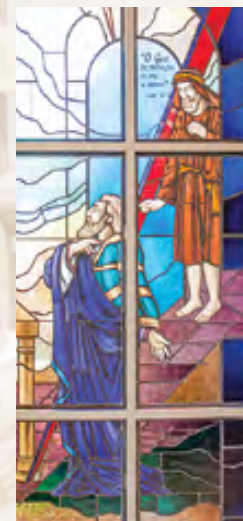
Each of us has received God's Mercy—and thus the stained-glass window without a specific picture to tell your story of mercy. We are called to be **Rays of Mercy** to others, so that they, too, can tell their story of God's mercy. Please join your Ray of Mercy with the many others in our campaign and help us to reflect God's mercy.

—Fr. Tom Johns

People & Programs

We want to provide all who come to our sacred spaces the opportunity to encounter their loving God and meet their spiritual needs, including those who cannot physically come to us due to disability or life circumstances.

Our programs are designed to draw us to God's mercy, and yet the way we reach out in the future will require new skills, new methods, and new ways of thinking. We must consider how to serve at least 4 or 5 generations with different perspectives on communication and technology. The past months



have taught us to think, communicate and serve differently.

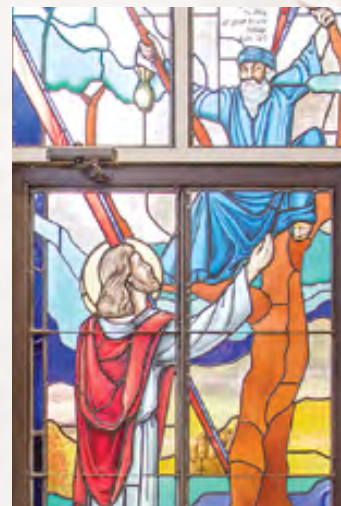
Your responses to the recent disciple-maker survey gave us insights in areas you would like personal or parish programs to grow, such as creating new ways of teaching our faith, especially adult faith formation; offering retreats, workshops, and other opportunities to grow in faith; advancing our missionary and evangelization efforts; and, growing our music ministry.

With your help, we will enhance our current programs and add others to find new ways to show the grace of mercy to others.

Communication & Technology

One of the keys to reaching out to provide spiritual support is communication. In the past, we communicated primarily in person such as the Mass and religious programs and through written words such as parish bulletins. Recognizing the changing world, we moved to electronic communications through the VianneyVoice and to livestreaming Masses, providing online programs such as Visiting with the Vicars.

We always will have in-person gatherings and will continue to reach out to those who continue to be isolated, including the sick, the disabled, and the homebound. We anticipate that spreading the message of God's mercy in the future will require



continuing electronic means of communication as well as other types of approaches. To do that, we will need to continue to update and modernize our information technology as well as the software programs that will assist us in evangelizing in new ways.

Beyond communication of the message, new systems installed in the church, such as the HVAC, require internet access to communicate issues before they become problems. The use of the internet, hardware and software will increase with each "smart technology," which means our system, now nearing maximum capacity, must be able to manage the increase.

Mercy—it is the theme around which we built and dedicated our church. The red and blue rays begin in the windows behind the crucifix, the supreme source of mercy with the red and blue symbolizing the blood and water flowing from His body. The Rays of God's Mercy radiate out through each window, reminding us that God is present in a very special way whenever we are merciful to others as He is to us. His mercy has blessed us all.

We are undertaking this campaign—the **Rays of Mercy Campaign**—in thanksgiving for all the blessings we have received from God through His loving mercy. This campaign also is to extend those Rays of Mercy beyond our parishioners to everyone we meet who seeks God's mercy.

Our **Rays of Mercy Campaign** focuses on three areas: Sacred Spaces; People & Programs; and, Communication & Technology.

