



# A PRELIMINARY CASE STATEMENT FOR: **SAINT BERNARD PARISH**

**Wauwatosa, WI**

## **ABOUT SAINT BERNARD PARISH**

For 110 years, Saint Bernard Parish has been the spiritual home for many blessed moments, those that many people will never forget and cherish for a lifetime. Saint Bernard's mission is one of the most important missions in the world: to form holy, healthy, and happy disciples of Jesus Christ who love God and go outside to make the world a better place. Through the sacramental life of the Church, our parishioners are fed by Jesus in the Eucharist, go into the world to evangelize and serve those who do not know God, the poor and oppressed, and return to the Eucharist to offer thanks to God.

Initially, the "mother church" of Wauwatosa, Saint Bernard was formed in 1911 with Monsignor Bernard Traudt as our founding pastor. Eight years later, Saint Bernard opened its school and, in 1924, graduated its inaugural class. Throughout its rich history, the parish has updated its church and school spaces, participated in a dynamic regional youth ministry and child formation program, and served those in need through our human concerns work.

In recent years, our efforts have significantly accelerated. Working with Christ King Parish and sharing a pastor and staff, our outreach has expanded and improved significantly. We offer many adult formation activities (Between the Masses, Know Your Faith, book studies), small discipleship groups, and *Alpha*, an introduction to the reality of God in one's life, which has invited many people into a life of faith for the first time. We share Wauwatosa Catholic School with Saint Pius X Parish and are responsible for the building needs and operating costs. And we, along with Christ King, support those in need in the City of Milwaukee through our operation of a twice-weekly dinner at All Saints Parish while growing friendships with parishioners and those served in this area of Milwaukee.

Most importantly, our parish church is in one of the most vibrant areas in the Milwaukee area. In proximity to the Milwaukee Regional Medical Complex and central to the recently upgraded Village of Wauwatosa area, the possibilities of evangelization cannot be expressed in words. The possibilities we have are virtually endless.

## OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

We are long overdue for many infrastructure renovations and more effectively capturing our parish's potential. Our last campaign occurred over 22 years ago, and it is time we address our limitations due to our failing infrastructure. The parish is developing plans on how best to meet our basic needs and be ready to grow.

Highlights of our needs include (costs are approximate):

- Failing boiler and failed air conditioning units (\$750,000-\$1,000,000)
- Failing retaining walls, including urgent attention to the north side of the campus (\$500,000-\$1,000,000)
- Many leaking roofs (\$250,000-\$500,000)
- Sinking parking lot (\$300,000-\$750,000)
- A variety of urgent campus needs and enhancements (\$250,000)
- Retire our outstanding loan from 2000 (\$563,000)

In addition to addressing the most pressing needs of our parish, through the Love One Another campaign, we will have the opportunity to enthusiastically fulfill our Archdiocesan obligation (\$312,361). Highlights of the Archdiocesan component include:

- Strengthening every parish in Southeastern Wisconsin
- Increasing vital ministries serving thousands each year
- Supporting education and formation of our children
- Growing charitable outreach of the Church to those in need
- Supporting our priests, deacons, seminarians, and lay ministers

If we are so blessed to secure more than the financial means necessary for our facility, we could utilize the remaining funds to create a Catholic education fund for our parish children to attend Catholic schools (\$250,000-500,000), upgrade our campus with landscaping enhancements (\$75,000), install an attractive fence to replace the chain link fence (\$200,000), and potentially touch up the appearance of the church sanctuary (\$150,000).

## YOUR ROLE

To better understand our community's ability and desire to help achieve this ambitious vision, Saint Bernard is considering a \$5.5 million fundraising campaign to support the renovation and improvement of our parish's amenities. We are grateful for your feedback to shape our path forward.

## AT A GLANCE:

- Established in **1911**
- Approximately **500** families
- **11** clergy and staff members
- Shared parish school with **Saint Pius X Parish**
- Located in **Wauwatosa, WI**, in the **Archdiocese of Milwaukee**
- Father Phillip Bogacki pastor since **2015**

