



St. Joseph Crescent Springs Case Statement - DRAFT
August 11, 2021

For more than 100 years, the Northern Kentucky community has worked together to build St. Joseph Parish with the desire and mission to bring literally every single person in Crescent Springs and Villa Hills to the knowledge and love of Christ and His Church. With God's good grace and through the sacrifices of many, St. Joseph Parish continues to grow and to spread God's love to all.

In the early 1900's, farming families were growing around a railroad stop on the Cincinnati Southern Railroad and the need for a Catholic church became evident to the residents. Thirty Catholic families came together with \$1400 asking permission from the bishop to establish a new church in the area. St. Joseph, as the patron saint of carpenters, was the name given to the church in honor of the workers (parishioners) who built the church with their own hands. The small church and combined school opened in 1916. As the years passed, the expressway was built, farmland turned into neighborhoods and the needs of the Parish grew and changed. Its members responded to these needs with commitments of love and support. They did so with new school buildings, a new church and additions to each. With each of these additions, the Parish grew not just physically, but spiritually and in ways that made it better able to serve its community.

It has been nearly 25 years since St. Joseph's completed a capital project of any kind. As a result, several of our buildings and facilities are in need of significant repair and updating. It will be up to the support of the current parishioners to make such improvements a possibility. These needs have been prioritized into 3 main categories: Critical Needs, Visual and Technical Enhancement and Future Function. The total cost of the work is estimated around \$5 million.

Critical Needs are just that – items that need to be addressed to maintain use of the existing facility. This includes replacing a leaking 65-year-old roof across the church and rectory, work around Noll Hall to prevent further leakage and water damage, regrading and paving the crumbling parking lot, and replacing the HVAC system for our church and rectory. Completing this work will allow faith and community gatherings to continue in healthy and comfortable environments. These first priorities also include an update to the exterior of Noll Hall, making it a more identifiable and visible-façade from Buttermilk Pike. An elevator from the Church level to the Hall allowing access for all to move between levels without steps or braving the elements outside is also a Critical Need. The total cost of this work is currently estimated to be nearly \$2 million.

The next priority is focused on **Visual and Technical Enhancements** and will update our facilities for both functional and aesthetic improvements. This list includes enhancements to the sanctuary (altar space) with a reconfigured altar space, a devotional to Mary and St. Joseph in a fixed altarpiece, and a fixed baptismal font in the rear of church. The intended purpose of these improvements is to provide our faith community with a more prayerful and reflective environment that is focused on reverence of the Blessed Sacrament. Also included in the Visual and Technical Enhancement updates are renovations to Noll Hall, including new flooring, lighting, wall coverings, AV system, meeting spaces and bathroom updates. These enhancements will provide an updated space for the cafeteria for our school children and a modern backdrop for social gatherings. In our school specifically, we will make improvements by adding the materials necessary for a dedicated STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math)

Lab to give our students the extra edge needed to compete in the ever-changing world of science, math and technology. And lastly the Visual and Technical Enhancement priorities include contingency funds to cover any unforeseen expenses associated with the completion of this campaign. The estimated cost of the Visual and Technical Enhancement priority items is \$1.5 million.

Our third priority relates to the **Future Function** of our Parish and includes updates around our campus to increase the ease and usability of our facilities. The Future Function priority will tear down the old and build a new Pastoral Office with handicap access and additional meeting spaces to carry out the mission of our Parish. This priority will also build additional and affordable storage space with room to grow for the needs of our festival, school play, charity events, outdoor lawn equipment, and more. Lastly, this priority level will build an outdoor classroom and gathering space for our school, allowing our students to learn by immersing themselves in nature, in addition to providing space for sheltered outdoor barbecues and social gatherings. The total cost of the Future Function priority is approximately \$1.5 million.

As mentioned, the list above contains both items that are in current (and in some cases past due) need of replacement and updating as well as aesthetic and future needs. Completing this work sets the base for the community to continue to grow and to fulfill the mission of sharing God's love with everyone in it. With that in mind, Father Boelscher and the Capital Campaign Steering Team are prioritizing this work so that it can be completed as quickly as possible and will act as faithful stewards of the funds procured. The campaign drive is expected to take 6-8 months and construction will begin immediately following (with permission from the diocese).

Parishioner membership and Mass attendance are on the rise, our school has grown for the last 4 consecutive years, we have exceeded our DPAA goals year after year, for the first time in a decade our budget is balanced and we are beginning to operate with a surplus, and new spiritual and community groups are forming all around our parish. St. Joseph's is healthier than ever and is filled with the same love and vigor that has made it a destination for all Catholics and Christians for over 100 years. We have every right to believe we will be successful in this mission. It's our turn now. It's our turn to pray and make the sacrifices necessary that bring literally everyone in our community to the knowledge and love of Christ and His Church.