

CASE FOR SUPPORT



St. Charles Borromeo | Sicklerville, NJ

OUR HISTORY

The history of St. Charles Borromeo Church has been shaped by its visionary pastors and by parishioners with a commitment to its Catholic Christian community. Each of our five pastors brought their own specific gifts uniquely befitting the needs of the parish at that particular time. We have indeed been blessed by God to be shepherded by these priests and to be responsive to their leadership.

Our founding pastor, Father (later Monsignor) Joseph W. Leary arrived in July 1965 with a mandate to establish the first Catholic community in Washington Township. Living in a home borrowed from a parishioner, he organized committees, ministries and activities for the young parish while celebrating Mass at the Whitman Square Community Club, the Birches Hall, and on special occasions on tennis courts and picnic grounds.

Property was purchased at the intersection of Whitman Drive and Johnson Road and an adjacent house on Stage Coach Road which became the first rectory. Groundbreaking for the new Church occurred in 1967 and the first Mass was celebrated at midnight on Christmas Eve, 1969. On May 31, 1970 Bishop George H. Guilfoyle presided over the dedication of the new complex, which included an all-purpose hall in the Church basement. An outdoor grotto was added in 1973 to provide space for private meditation and devotion. In 1982 a new Religious Education Center was built and later served as an extension of St. Jude Regional School for kindergarten and first grade classes.

In 1985 Father William F. Collins was appointed our second pastor. He instituted perpetual adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in a chapel carved from the dining room of the priests' residence; developed the Grotto with the Stations of the Cross, added stained glass windows to the side entrances of the Church, and installed the present doors. The population of the parish burgeoned as new areas were developed, and Monsignor Joseph F. O'Connell, who became pastor in 1991, responded with the formation of new ministries to meet the diversity of needs; and

oversaw the construction of a new rectory which allowed an expansion of the parish's offices.

Monsignor James R. Tracy was named the fourth pastor of St. Charles Borromeo in 2002. He oversaw the transformation of the original basement hall into several meeting rooms, including Borromeo Hall for social gatherings, with an elevator to accommodate persons with disabilities. He introduced stewardship to guide parishioners' use of time, talent, and treasure to make "God's Kingdom come." With increased giving, the parish was able to purchase an adjacent property which was renovated into the new Parish Center.

Our fifth and current pastor, Father Michael J. Matveenko, was appointed by Bishop Joseph Galante on August 1, 2011. While continuing to build on his predecessors' vision of good stewardship and providing a warm, welcoming community of believers, Father Mike oversaw the transfer to the new parish center; revamped the Parish Council into a Pastoral Council that advises him and the Parish Staff on the spiritual and temporal needs of the parish, establishing goals to be accomplished each year. He encouraged the creation of the hugely popular and highly successful summer Religious Education program for the children of the parish; oversaw the installation of a new sound and video system for the church; and added new security systems for the entire parish complex. Under Father Mike's leadership, the parish continues to expand its outreach with the creation of several new ministries, with more in the planning stages.



We are asking our parish family to lend generous support to the campaign. As our current parishioners, we now call upon you to carry on the generosity, spirit, and sacrifice that filled the hearts of the men and women who have supported our parish and diocese throughout our history.

As we have been blessed, let us act as stewards by supporting the **Catholic Strong** campaign to preserve the essence of what we and all of the faithful within the greater Church in South Jersey are blessed to have, and to ensure the Church's presence in the lives of our children and grandchildren. Let us continue to show the power which blessed the first apostles to our parish and diocese. Your prayers, generosity, and sacrifice will ensure our success.

OUR PLAN

The Catholic Community of South Jersey continues to reaffirm its 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.

As vital and active members of the Diocese of Camden wishing to make our contribution to this ongoing mission, we are beginning the **Catholic Strong** Campaign to provide the resources needed to strengthen our parishes and Catholic education, expand our outreach, 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.

Every parish in the Diocese has been called to share in these efforts with an allocated goal generated at the Diocesan level. Our parish target for **Catholic Strong** is to raise a minimum of **\$1,270,000** over the next **five years**. Of this, 30% (\$381,000) will be remanded to the Diocese to provide for its needs. The remaining **70% (\$889,000)**, plus 80% of all funds raised over our parish target will remain with us to provide for the needs that are outlined below.



PARISH GOAL

\$1,270,000

(We will receive \$889,000)

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Ministry | \$90,000

- **Evangelization Outreach Program:** Of the 3,000+ registered households with an equivalent of 9,500 individuals, only 1,500 attend Mass regularly and many ministries do not have sufficient help. Research firms like the Pew Research Center point out that nearly 20% of Americans have no religious affiliation. Our intent is to develop a comprehensive approach to this challenge, involving communication, faith formation & outreach to the community covered by our parish boundaries. Funding will be used to hire a full-time *Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry and Social Media Communications* to create and host programs and events, and the production of marketing and other outreach materials.
- **Catholic High School Endowment Fund:** to provide scholarships or other financial assistance for the youth of the parish who wish to attend a *Catholic High School*
- **Parish Religious Education Endowment Fund:** to provide scholarships or other financial assistance for the religious education of youth who attend public schools.

Building Improvements | \$724,000

- Replace the aging and worn **Padre Pio Gazebo** in the Prayer Garden.
- Mill, repave and re-stripe the entire **Church parking lot**.

- Repair the **retaining walls** of all Church access stairways.
- Enhance **complex safety and security**, including additional cameras; replacement of corroded steel doors in the Church basement and Siena Hall; a video access control system for the Religious Education Center; and upgrades to current alarm systems and sensors.
- Replace **crumbling concrete steps** on three (3) sides of the Church
- Install **new padding** on Church seats/pews and kneelers
- **Renovate and expand the Choir area** of the Church including a new 2-level Choir Platform and new seating
- Create a **Youth and Senior Lounge** in the Religious Education Center with access during the week, including furniture, tables, TV monitor, computers for internet access, board games, and coffee machine.
- **Expand and modernize the Gathering Space** of the Church to provide a larger, brighter and more open area for parishioner gatherings before and after Mass and hospitality events; allow a relocation and expansion of the Welcome Center to a more visible and welcoming site; and provide additional space for information tables, booths and kiosks.

Church Debt | \$75,000

- Retire the Church debt to the diocese associated with the school loan

*Above costs are projections and require diocesan consultation and approval. All projects are considered pending until campaign funds are realized