



NEWS!

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When our parish began this journey – the vision was to make improvements to our facilities that would create a spiritually welcoming environment, create enough space for the planned growth of our St. Bernard's Community, secure our school and students, make the facilities more efficient, and be good stewards of what we have.

St. Bernard's Finance Council and St. Bernard's Is Building Committee (SBIB) met with architects and our general contractor on June 27th to discuss the revised bid quotes regarding the addition to our Church. As a parish community, we have been fundraising and planning for the facility improvements for four years now. Over this time there have been significant external factors which have impacted the decision to move forward with the project as originally planned. The Covid-19 pandemic alone caused the building plans to be on hold for over a year.

When the SBIB Committee was formed the goal was to raise enough in contributions to allow for a Phase 1 and Phase 2 along with a modest loan. As you are aware, since the pandemic, building costs have skyrocketed. The Finance Council and SBIB Committee have met many times to consider revisions to the original design stay within the parishes means.

Original Phase 1 included a new street-level entrance/gathering space, adoration chapel, elevator, and centralized office and support spaces along with updated school security. Phase 2 included the demolition of the Rectory and adjacent garage, the addition of three classrooms and a large multi-purpose parish hall/gymnasium.

The reality is that the original project and budget forecast are no longer valid in today's world. Following extensive discussion, analysis, and prayerful consideration, the Council, SBIB and Fr. Rick agreed to move forward following way: Original Phase 1 as described above will be divided into Phase 1A and Phase 1B. St. Bernard's will begin construction of Phase 1A later this summer which will include a new street-level entrance/gathering space, adoration chapel, elevator, secure hallway between church and school and relocation of the bell tower. Phase 1B now consists of the new centralized offices will be constructed in the future as funding becomes available. Phase 1A now has a cost estimate of \$3.75 million and is to be complete 12 months after the beginning of construction. The SBIB account after paying architectural fees to date and the construction of the rear entry has approximately \$1.95 million cash on hand with another \$740,000 outstanding contributions, leaving about \$1 million additional to raise and or borrow.

As fiduciary stewards we are required to consider the parishes ability to service any new debt. The most recent project cost estimates were higher than anyone wants. Rather than delay due to the we will align the project scope with our financial ability and concentrate on Phase 1A.

We will also be re-doubling our efforts to raise additional funds to minimize the long-term financial burden to the parish.

We ask for your continued prayerful support for this important parish project. You are encouraged and welcome to contact any council member with your questions and concerns.

Sincerely,

St. Bernard's Finance Council

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Mark Thune
Tim Benedict
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SBIB Committee Chair's

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