

Meeting Our Mission  
Capital Campaign 2024

SAINT BERNADETTE  
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CATHOLIC CHURCH

Linville, North Carolina



“But now, because of the delight I take in the house of my God...  
I give to the house of my God my personal fortune in gold and silver.”

1 Chronicles 29:3

Dear Parish Family,

May the peace of Christ be with all of you! As the picture on the front illustrates, the Holy Mass is the greatest sacrifice ever offered here at St. Bernadette – the very sacrifice of Christ Himself on the cross for our salvation. In union with His sacrifice, I humbly ask for your financial support in our 2024 Campaign, “Meeting our Mission.”



As you may know, the campus of St. Bernadette Catholic Church was expanded in 2008, which means it has now been at least 16 years since much of our grounds and facilities have been significantly addressed. Our campus is currently comprised of the main church, St. Anthony Chapel, the Marian Grotto, the Family Life Center, faith formation classrooms, administrative offices, a gift shop, the Rectory, parking lots, and access roads.

Any homeowner knows the myriad of things that start to fail and/or show their age after 16 years. Not addressing such things toward the end of their life expectancy sometimes translates into much costlier repairs later. A significant example of this is now occurring at another church in our Diocese to the tune of 18 million dollars. Had they addressed their structural problems years ago, they would not be in the midst of this fiscal crisis.

We might not be facing a crisis immediately, but our roofs leak profusely in hallways, in offices, at the rectory (just to name one facilities project). It happens anytime we get a good rain. When you think about it, if given enough time, weather will eventually destroy any structure. If we consider the brutal weather we sometimes get in the mountains, many of our exteriors will likely not “live” as long as we would like (our cracking pavement is a perfect example). Waiting to act or waiting for bigger Sunday collections might create the “perfect storm” which puts St. Bernadette in a very difficult position.

We recently conducted a Reserve Study to better understand the costs and timetables associated with major maintenance and facility repairs which, given enough time, become necessary for any church. This study clearly revealed the fact that we can’t possibly afford to pay for these unavoidable expenses both “on deck” and “on the horizon.” Currently, our general offertory barely covers our annual operating costs, so we cannot set aside funds from this budget to address major maintenance. Additionally, our current savings would only cover a small handful of projects and be completely depleted in the process.

As good stewards, and to minimize the impact of continual requests for donations, we seek to create a Reserve Fund specifically for major projects. This will ensure that our generation, and generations to come, will be well-prepared to meet our mission as disciples of Christ and to maintain the beauty and dignity of the property and buildings which make St. Bernadette Catholic Church your home away from home!

Please give prayerful attention to this request for your financial assistance.

May the Lord bless and keep you!

~Father Bond

# Situation

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St. Bernadette's was enlarged and expanded in 2008. We have four primary structures (Main Church, Administration/Family Center, St. Anthony's Chapel, and the Rectory) with associated facilities such as roofing, siding, HVAC, plumbing, kitchens & baths, flooring, window & doors, paving, and so on.

We recently fielded a Reserve Study to analyze the current state of our campus facilities, the costs for repair and replacement, and the schedule of work to be done based on useful life expectancy.

The Study results have revealed that our limited savings accounts are inadequate to address the life expectancy of our campus facilities. As such, we need to create a Reserve Fund to maintain our campus now and in future years.

# Financial Specifics

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Campaign Goal. . . . . \$5,000,000

**One-Time Facility Replacement Costs:**

*(not including inflation)*

Pavement/Curbs/Guard Rails . . . . .	\$285,000
Roofing/Gutters . . . . .	\$470,000
Siding . . . . .	\$250,000
Windows & Doors . . . . .	\$215,000
Painting . . . . .	\$125,000
Kitchens/Baths/Flooring. . . . .	\$120,000
Systems (Water, Gas, HVAC) . . . . .	\$100,000





# General Questions

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**Q: Why are we having this Campaign?**

A: We expanded our Church and campus in 2008. However, we do not have adequate funds to maintain our campus now or in the future.

**Q: What is the aim of the Campaign?**

A: To establish a permanent source of funds from which to maintain all our facilities in a timely fashion now and for generations to come. To illustrate this importance, another North Carolina parish faces a similar situation - they deferred their maintenance and now the repair estimate is \$18 million.

**Q: What is a Reserve Study?**

A: A Reserve Study is a long-term capital budget planning tool that assesses and analyzes the health of an association's physical property. Based on the health of the items assessed, a long-term calendar of repair and replacement is created with associated cost estimates. The study does not account for inflation. Our study was completed by Miller+Dodson Capital Reserve Consultants, led by Architectural Engineer Glenn Larrimore, with over 20 years' experience.

**Q: How much do we need to raise?**

A: \$5 million - this will ensure we have funds on hand to repair and replace facility items identified in the Reserve Study as nearing their end of life. It will also enable us to have a source of funds to repair and replace major items in and around the campus for the foreseeable future.

**Q: Where will the funds be held?**

A: We will put the funds into a restricted interest bearing savings account with the Diocese. This will help to ensure a reserve for maintaining our facilities based on our Reserve Study.

**Q: What facilities will be addressed first?**

A: Leaking roofs, parking lot and guardrails, interior & exterior painting, stone repointing, and family room/ cry room flooring and furniture.

**Q: What are the costs of the Capital Campaign?**

A: The projected costs of the Campaign will be minimal – including printing of brochures, postage, etc. The Campaign is being led by Diocese and volunteer support (at no cost). We expect to the costs to be less than 1% of the total amount we raise.

**Q: Does the Diocese support this Campaign?**

A: The Diocese fully supports this Campaign and has provided direction and support throughout. They are using St. Bernadette's Reserve Study as a model for other parishes to emulate. We are the first church in our diocese to conduct such a proactive study.



# Financial Questions

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**Q: Is a Campaign pledge in addition to my Sunday offertory?**

A: Yes. The funds donated in the Sunday offertory are dedicated to the annual operating costs of the parish. We encourage you to maintain your Sunday offertory contribution at the same level you have been giving.

**Q: How can I make sure that my pledge will be used for its intended purpose?**

A: All capital donations are restricted by St. Bernadette and the Diocese. The parish has implemented a process to ensure accountability of the campaign donor monies. Once a completed pledge card is received, it will be entered into the Church accounting system and deposited into the restricted savings account with the Diocese. All pledge amounts must clearly state your name and the words "Meeting Our Mission."

**Q: May I donate electronically?**

A: Yes. An online giving website has been created to receive donations specifically for Meeting Our Mission. All electronic donations must be directed through [www.MeetingOurMission.org](http://www.MeetingOurMission.org). You can select either to pay by credit card or by EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) from checking or savings account.

**Q: When do the payments begin?**

A: You may specify a start date on your pledge card. You may also specify if your contribution will be monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually.

**Q: Will there be other campaigns in the future?**

A: Future campaigns will depend on the growth and need of the Church. However, we will not need to raise funds to maintain our current facilities if our goal is met.

**Q: How much am I expected to give?**

A: This is personal decision. The Giving Guide is offered as a suggested amount based on your income or personal wealth. You must weigh you own personal situation prayerfully. Any amount will be appreciated.

**Q: Is my Pledge legally binding?**

A: No, however, we hope that you will make a good faith commitment in that you promise to fulfill your pledge to the best of your ability.

**Q: How should I make out my check?**

A: To "St. Bernadette Catholic Church." The memo line should read "Meeting Our Mission."

**Q: What happens if my financial circumstances change within the pledge period?**

A: If anything changes in your financial situation, please contact the Church Office from the Parish or Campaign.

**Q: Will my gift be tax deductible?**

A: Yes, but only the actual gifting amount is deductible on an annual basis. You can't deduct what you pledge.

**Q: Is there an opportunity for permanent recognition based on the size of the donation?**

A: Yes, please contact the Pastor for more information.

**Q: Can only parishioners donate?**

A: No. This Campaign is open to everyone. They can be family, friends, co-workers, businesses and other organizations. They can be from any denomination or walk of life.

# Three Year Giving Guide

Monthly	Yearly	Total
\$500	\$6,000	\$18,000
\$450	\$5,400	\$16,200
\$400	\$4,800	\$14,400
\$350	\$4,200	\$12,600
\$300	\$3,600	\$10,800
\$250	\$3,000	\$9,000
\$200	\$2,400	\$7,200
\$150	\$1,800	\$5,400
\$100	\$1,200	\$3,600
\$50	\$600	\$1,800



In this new springtime for our church,  
we can Meet our Mission and make our future secure!

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[www.MeetingOurMission.org](http://www.MeetingOurMission.org)  
(campaign DONATION website)

[www.stlucienbernadette.org](http://www.stlucienbernadette.org)  
(church website)