



# CHRIST OUR LIGHT

St. Ambrose Academy Building Campaign

## CAMPAIGN UPDATE

JANUARY 2022 | ISSUE NO. 3



*Building strong leaders who are rooted in the values and principles of our Catholic faith begins at a young age! Building a foundation of discipleship through an integrated curriculum - where faith and reason mutually exist plus regular access to the sacraments and the formation of habits of prayer mean that St. Ambrose Academy students are receiving the best preparation for life after graduation.*

### REACHING HIGHER!

**by Joe Draves, Development Director**

I pray that you had a wonderful Christmas season and New Year. Here at St. Ambrose, the work of Catholic classical education continues with great fervor as we look ahead to a bright future.

#### Progress Since Last Update

Last year, we shared exhilarating news that our "Promised Land" is in Fitchburg just west of McGaw Park, and we'll operate in our interim building at 3 Point Pl in Madison in the meantime (formerly Upper Iowa University). Now, you'll be excited to know!

- We have approvals from the City of Fitchburg for exterior architectural design and zoning in order to begin interior design and to finalize our contractor and project schedule.
- In November, two incredible campaign committee leaders (Bill Levy and Joe McNeil) hosted an energizing event for a roomful of friends at the Maple Bluff Country Club - a perfect occasion to reveal a bolder project vision (described below) and to set the pace for additional events and meetings to inspire support.
- Since that event, we've received four additional six-figure commitments to the project along with several other generous pledges - all a huge gift to us and the Church in Madison!

We are grateful for those who have begun this journey with us, and we look forward to continuing to reach out as this campaign progresses.



## The Future St. Ambrose Academy

### Diocesan Priority: Make Disciples

Bishop Hying is revitalizing the Church in Madison through a dynamic focus on evangelization, enflaming and equipping every parishioner to be alive in the gospel. Bishop's Go Make Disciples program reminds us that to be an effective evangelizer, we must first be thoroughly evangelized ourselves. Catholic education has long been considered one of the best places to do this, and it's a big reason Bishop is one of our strongest supporters!

### The Need is Great

The Diocese of Madison has major catching up to do with neighboring Wisconsin dioceses in offering Catholic secondary education: the Green Bay diocese has seven Catholic high schools, the La Crosse diocese has eight, and Milwaukee has 16. Yet Madison, the center of influence for our great state, has only two! Per capita, we lack these options by a factor of four.

Children in the Diocese of Madison desperately need more options!

- Families are seeking the best fit for every child and a teaching program aligned with their core values.
- Madison needs more schools like St. Ambrose – not just for our children's future but the future of the Church and world. We form leaders in knowledge and virtue so they can renew and build a good civilization. Investment in St. Ambrose leads to well-formed, well-educated lay Catholics ready to engage the world: which can and should matter to all of us.

We can **begin** to rectify this situation by providing our Academy a *permanent* school of excellence.

### Reaching Higher

Leading up to that November event in Maple Bluff, several key benefactors called us to aim higher! With their spirited encouragement and support, we laid out a bolder vision for a complete campus suitable for complete human formation.

We've raised our campaign goal to \$17M and early feedback is unanimous: this is the right and necessary thing to do. Our children need a full campus that reflects and empowers us to optimize our mission of excellence.



More updates about the Christ Our Light campaign, including floor plans and images of the current site are also available and can be viewed online at: [www.ambroseacademy.org/campaign!](http://www.ambroseacademy.org/campaign!)



---

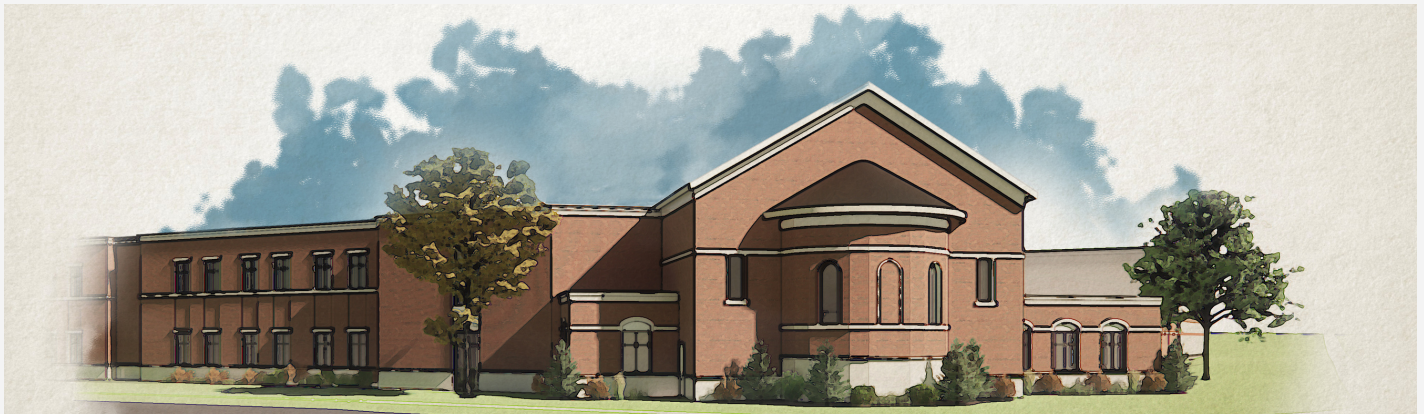
Built with lasting and efficient materials, our campus will integrate vital features that enhance, sustain, and grow our powerful evangelization and student outcomes as we double enrollment in the next seven years!

1. The central Fitchburg site ensures accessibility to the greatest number of families who travel up to 50 miles from every direction.
2. The large 280-seat capacity vaulted oratory (worship space) will support our regular all-school Masses and special liturgies throughout the year.
3. The two-story academic wing will accommodate ordinary and specialized classrooms and learning rooms for our target enrollment of 250+ students, while respecting the unique development needs of junior high and senior high students.
4. The competitive gymnasium with performance stage will allow for athletic team competitions plus a litany of other uses to bring our larger community together in fellowship and support.
5. Check out these drawings and renderings for more!

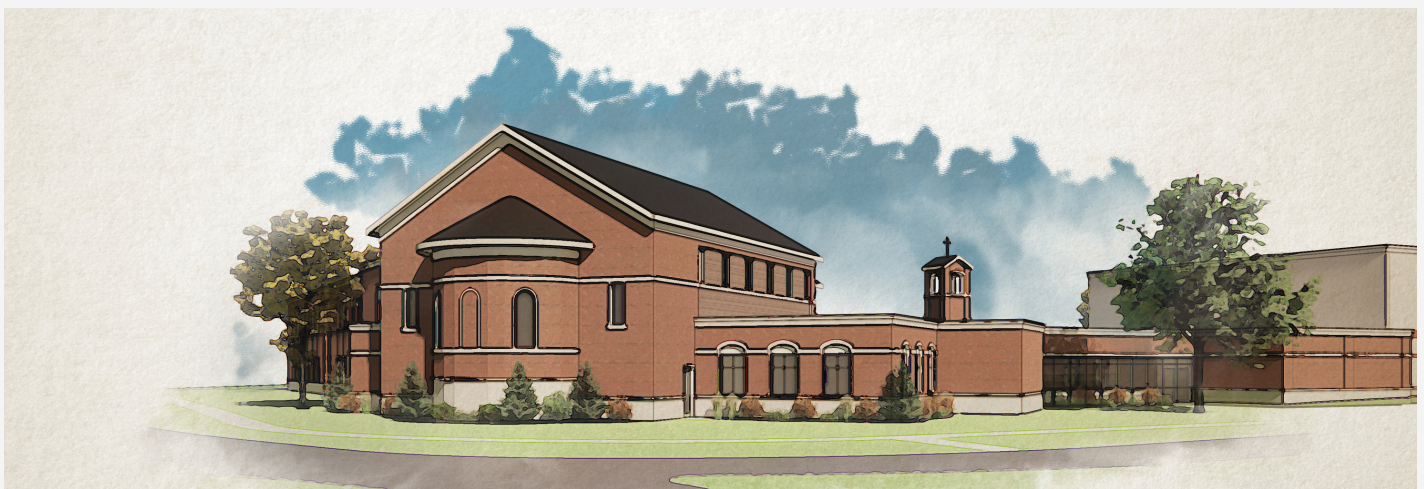
We are excited for the Madison community to view these inspiring plans, ponder the incredible potential of establishing St. Ambrose as another permanent educational option for local families, and consider how they can help make this vital and historic project become a vibrant reality that will bear awesome fruit for every one of us. As surely as these students depend on us today, we will depend on them and their faith-filled leadership soon.

Please contact me at [josephd@ambroseacademy.org](mailto:josephd@ambroseacademy.org) or (920) 284-4771 to request more information and learn how you can help!

***Our Lady of Good Help, St. Joseph, and  
St. Ambrose, pray for us!***



*View of two-story classroom space (left) and oratory (center) from the intersection of Nobel Dr. and Fahey Glen.*



*View of the oratory (left), administrative offices (center), and gymnasium (right), from the intersection of Nobel Dr. and Fahey Glen.*

---