



CHRIST KING PARISH

CHRIST KING PARISH: GOD'S GENEROUS GIFT



*In the spirit of thanksgiving, community, and commitment,
we peek back into the exciting, sacrificial,
and sometimes challenging story of Christ King Parish.
First established as a new and growing suburban congregation,
Christ King Parish remains a stalwart of faith, gratitude,
and witness within the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.
Acknowledging God's blessings,
and remembering all who walked before us,
we recall our Parish's past with fondness
and humble appreciation...*

The 1930's – Sowing the Seeds

The prosperous decade of the 1920s, saw increasing numbers of people move from the City of Milwaukee to the suburbs. Looking for larger homes on larger lots, suburbs like Wauwatosa, a small city directly west of Milwaukee, experienced dramatic growth. According to census records, Wauwatosa's 1920 population was 5,818, whereas its 1930 population grew to 21,194. Coinciding with this growth, Milwaukee Archbishop, the Most Rev. Sebastian Messmer, in 1930, purchased 18 city lots on what then was known as Swan Road, between Center and Clarke Streets. The Archdiocese of Milwaukee secured the land with the intention that it would be the site for a future Catholic Congregation. But for a variety of reasons, the most probable being the severe economic downturn of the Great Depression, the proposed Catholic Congregation was not immediately developed.

The property sat idle for nine years. In 1936, Archbishop Samuel Stritch responded to a government inquiry questioning whether the Swan Road property should retain tax-exempt status because it had not been developed in the manner the Archdiocese originally stated. Not wanting to lose the valuable parcel of land, which in 1936 would have sold at a depressed cost, lawyers recommended that the Archdiocese deed the property's title to the planned new congregation to show that the property would indeed be for religious use. To satisfy the state's inquiry, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee deeded the land (the 18 lots purchased in 1930) to **The Congregation of The Christ King**, but agreed to delay requiring the Congregation to pay for the land for five years.

Initial drawings for a proposed campus of buildings were prepared in 1936, but creation of the envisioned Christ King Congregation experienced several starts and stops before the first stage of a substantive building project was adopted in December 1937, at a proposed cost of \$33,316. Actual progress in developing the parish, however, continued to move slowly. In August 1938, the Archdiocesan Vicar met with the pastors of St. Bernard Parish (established in 1911) and Mother of Good Counsel Parish (established in 1925) to ascertain opinions and objections to the erection of a new congregation to which some members of St. Bernard and Mother of Good Council would be assigned; the new congregation already was known as Christ King Parish. At this time, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee stringently adhered to the territorial regulation that a parish could accept only members who lived within its assigned territorial boundaries. The meeting concluded with no objection based on canonical causes, although Fr. James Huepper (St. Bernard Pastor) raised some objections to the proposed boundaries for Christ King.

As the Archdiocese prepared to establish the new Congregation in Wauwatosa, a group of approximately thirty Catholics living within the proposed new parish's boundaries, went door-to-door asking neighborhood Catholics to sign an Archdiocesan form pledging their support if a parish were to be located at Swan and Center Streets.



Rev. Joseph J. Huepper

Christ King Parish finally became a reality in the fall of 1939. On September 28, 1939, Archbishop Stritch appointed, Rev. Joseph Huepper (brother of Rev. James Huepper, pastor of St. Bernard Parish) as the first pastor of the new Congregation. Christ King Parish officially came into existence on October 14, 1939, when Archbishop Stritch decreed:

*By these letters, all things necessary having been done,
We erect the new Parish of the Christ King with all the privileges, rights, faculties
and obligations with the other Parishes of our Archdiocese have,
and We assign to it the territory within the following limits:*

*[South: to Menomonee River, West: to Milwaukee County-Waukesha County
line. North: to Capitol Drive, East: to 83rd Street both sides from North Avenue to
Capitol Drive, and an imaginary line drawn by extending 85th Street from Luding-
ton to the river]...*

*The endowment of the Parish will be the moral certainty of the good will of the
parishioners who will make the offerings necessary for the needs of the Parish in
the manner customary to Us. For the administration of the temporalities of the
Parish there will be a Corporation with the title **THE CHRIST-KING CONGREGATION**
of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, under the laws of Wisconsin ...*

*With all this before Us, We declare the Parish of the Christ-King canonically
erected and as such We wish it to be considered by all this
14th day of October, 1939 at our Chancery in witness....*

October 1939 continued to be a busy month for the new Parish. On October 16, 1939, two days after the Archbishop's decree, the first meeting of Christ King Congregation was held at Mount Mary College. At this meeting, which was attended by 42 men and 29 women, the Decree of Erection and the appointment of the first pastor were read. Christ King Parish's first trustees were appointed by the Archbishop on October 18, and on Sunday, October 22, the Congregation of The Christ King celebrated Sunday Masses at Mount Mary College. On this first Sunday, 96 people attended the 7:30am Mass, and 138 attended the 9:00am Mass; Christ King Parish's first baptism also took place on this day. On October 27, the Articles of Incorporation for Christ King Parish were filed with the State of Wisconsin, and on October 30, the newly formed Ways & Means Committee met with parish officers to outline a plan to obtain contributions toward a building fund.



First Mass, Lower (Christ King) Chapel, Mount Mary College

The Fall of 1939 also saw the formation of two significant lay organizations at Christ King Parish. On October 25 and November 16 respectively, the Christ King Christian Mother and Altar Society and the Holy Name Society were organized, and officers elected. Spiritually, socially, and financially, these organizations played an instrumental role in the development of Christ King Parish. The Christ King Holy Name Society is now inactive, but the Christ King Christian Mother and Altar Society (later known as Christ King Christian Women) remains a semi-active parish organization.

Under the sponsorship of the Christian Mother and Altar Society, the first "public card party" was held at Mount Mary College on December 8, 1939. The 1939-40 *Christ King Congregation Annals* reported an unusually large attendance of approximately 1,200 people, 259 tables of cards, and net proceeds of \$789.00.

In the parish's early years, the Christian Mother and Holy Name Societies sponsored numerous dinners, teas, card parties, smokers, and other fundraising events to support the parish building fund. The Christian Mother & Altar Society's Annual Christmas Tea and Gift Sale remained a major parish event for more than fifty years. For the 1959 Christmas Tea, 7,000 tea sandwiches were prepared. The last Christ King Christian Women Christmas Tea was held in 1995.

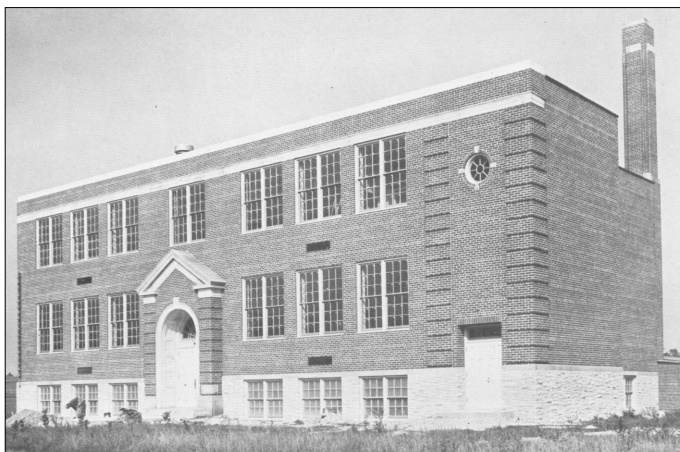
Other significant Christ King community groups—each of which influenced the “spirit” of Christ King Parish—were the Women's Circles, Men's Smokers, the Usher's Society, and the Christ King Bowling League. The Women's Circles were small groups of about eight women who met regularly for cards (bridge) and conversation. The Christ King Circles grew in number from three in 1940 to fifty-three in the 1960s. Circle dues were \$1.00 per month with all proceeds going to the parish; members of some Circles continue to gather today. The men of the parish sponsored frequent smokers and card parties. In the parish's early years, these events often coincided with a financial building request from Fr. Huepper. The Christ King Bowling League—annually noted in the *Christ King Annals*—was comprised of sixteen teams. The Christ King League bowled late on Friday evenings (around 9:15) because Fr. Huepper, an avid bowler, first presided at the regular Friday evening Benediction.

The 1940's – A Congregation Forms

Upon his appointment as pastor, Fr. Huepper began the task of building and paying for Christ King Parish. The 1939-40 *Christ King Annals* explained that a Parish Financial Policy was established by which “a family membership fee of \$20 is asked of every family of the parish. This fee establishes affiliation with the parish and is to supply the basic financial support. It is payable quarterly (\$10 per year for individuals with an income or young people at work). A voluntary assessment is expected of everyone to be paid weekly in contribution envelopes supplied to all. These envelopes are to be deposited at the church door each Sunday. Both husbands and wives are supplied envelopes.” All parishioner contributions were identified and listed in the annual Parish *Annals*.

On November 26, 1939, the first of many Building Fund Campaigns commenced, with initial pledges amounting to \$10,000.00. At the Christ King Building Committee's first meeting, January 3, 1940, the Committee recommended erecting a school, boiler house, and permanent rectory to be built in colonial style architecture. On March 3, the Building Committee approved plans and specifications for the new school building. To finance the new buildings, Parish officers resolved to borrow \$70,000 from the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin on a first mortgage loan, and other funds up to \$20,000 on unsecured notes.

Ground was broken for the school (center section of current school building) and boiler house on April 24, 1940 and for the rectory on May 29, 1940. On June 2, 1940 the Cornerstone for the new school was blessed and set in place.



Original School and Boiler House

March 21, 1940 marked Christ King's first Holy Thursday all-night vigil before the Blessed Sacrament. This time of Eucharistic Adoration, along with a yearly Forty Hour Devotion, held in October, became annual times of dedicated prayer at Christ King Parish for many years. May 5, 1940 marked the beginning of the sacramental tradition of First Holy Communion for Christ King second graders. Nine parish children received First Eucharist in 1940, and by the late 1950's and early 1960's, well over 150 children received First Holy Communion each year.

On May 29, 1940, ground was broken for what was then called, "the permanent Rectory." The Rectory was ready for occupancy in October 1940. When the "New Church" was constructed in 1955, large front and back additions were added to the Rectory along with some reconfiguration of existing room space.



Original Rectory

On September 11, 1940, Christ King School opened in its new building. The first floor contained four classrooms, the second floor was the Parish Chapel, and the basement was divided into a meeting hall, small kitchen, and restrooms. Staffed by 4 School Sisters of Notre Dame, Christ King School welcomed 118 children into 4 classrooms. In the early years, two grades shared one classroom and one teacher. Until religious vocations began to dramatically decline in the 1960's, Christ King School's faculty was primarily School Sisters of Notre Dame. The nuns who taught at Christ King initially lived at Mount Mary College or at the Notre Dame Convent in Elm Grove. Because the Sisters did not live on the premises, mothers often volunteered to prepare a hot lunch for them in the parish kitchen located in the school basement (current art room), or eighth grade boys rode their bicycles to Mount Mary to pick up lunch for the nuns.

September 15, 1940 marked the first time Holy Mass was offered in the new Christ King Chapel which comprised the entire second floor of the School building. Pews were acquired from St. Mary Parish, Elm Grove, and parish volunteers transformed the area into a worship site. Sunday Masses in the new Chapel were 7:30, 9:30, and 11:00 am. Confessions were offered Saturdays and Thursday before First Friday, and on the Vigil of Holy Days from 4:00-5:00pm and 7:30-8:30pm. In early 1943, an additional Sunday Mass was added to accommodate the growing Congregation.



First Solemn Mass in New Church (Second Floor Chapel)

On September 21-22, 1940, the first of many Christ King Fall Festivals was held on the parish grounds. Net proceeds from this event were \$2,738.45. At the 1941 Fall Festival, the capital prize was a lot located at the northeast corner of 93rd and Ridge Streets. The lot was a gift of Mr. T.C. Esser, and it brought a net return of \$1,248.42. The Festival's total proceeds in 1941 were \$3,347.35. The 1942 Festival awarded five \$100 War Bonds as the capital prize; this festival netted \$3,903.77.

January 1941 saw the beginning of what would become regular home visits by parish lay leaders “to more fully acquaint all parish members with the current financial policy and to obtain an expression from all of the amount to be contributed in meeting the budget needs of the parish.” The first parish visits were conducted by a team of 21 parish men. This practice became a regular occurrence when a parish building campaign took place. On a given Sunday, parishioners were asked to stay home to await their parish visit.

When the United States entered World War II in December 1941, churches and schools were asked to do whatever possible to support the war effort. In 1942, Christ King School children collected over \$7,000 for war stamps and bonds. Paper and scrap iron drives, along with the buying of war stamps and bonds, garnered Christ King School several public recognitions from the United States Treasury Department. Funds raised by Christ King students assisted in the purchase of an amphibian jeep, an ambulance, and Mass kits for Catholic chaplains. A Red Cross unit was organized by the Christian Mother & Altar Society; the Christ King Red Cross unit contributed sewing, knitting, and making surgical dressing. In 1943 the women of the parish spent more than 5,000 hours sewing, knitting, and making bandages. In the Spring of 1943, Christ King received news that a parish son—Francis Shannon Hughes (age 20)—had been killed in the service of his country on April 28, 1943.



Women of the Red Cross

When the school opened for its third year, September 9, 1942, a fifth classroom (a partitioned-off section of the School basement) had been added. The 1944 school reopening, which was delayed until September 25th because of a polio epidemic, saw the addition of another basement classroom, bringing the total number of classrooms to six. Religion was taught weekly by the parish priests. The 1944 *Annal* reported that Fr. Huepper weekly instructed grades 1,2,6,7,8, and the Assistant Priest instructed grades 3,4,5.

By the mid 1940s, Christ King School already was taking advantage of “modern technology.” Each Tuesday afternoon, children in grades 5th-8th tuned their radios to the “Let’s Draw” program for their weekly art lesson. And 7th and 8th graders regularly listened to “Young Experimenters” to supplement science instruction. In 1944, arrangements were made with Wauwatosa Junior High School to provide Christ King 8th graders instruction in sewing and mechanical drawing.



Fourth Grade Classroom

The Sacrament of Confirmation was administered for the first time at Christ King Parish to 71 Confirmants by Archbishop Kiley on Mary 28, 1942. The first Parish Mission was conducted by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate from March 14-28, 1943. A ladies’ mission was held for the first week and a men’s mission was the second week.

From its inception, Christ King Parish has actively nurtured the spiritual, educational, physical, and social formation of its youth. In addition to the School and Religious Education programs, the Parish has sponsored numerous youth-centered organizations. In the early years of Christ King, the Sodality of the Blessed Virgin was established for high school age girls “to band together the young ladies under the protection of the Mother of God and to stimulate them to the love and honor of Mary and to the imitation of her virtues.” Girl Scouts began at Christ King in 1942, and by 1957, Christ King hosted sixteen active Girl Scout troops. Historically, 7th and 8th grade Christ King Girl Scouts have actively pursued the Marian Award, Girl Scouting’s highest Catholic religious award. Boy Scouts began at Christ King in 1945 with the formation of Cub Scout Pack 117 and Boy Scout Troop 117. The 1957 *Christ King Annal* reported 153 Cub Scouts in 23 Dens. Boy Scout Troop 117 became inactive in the 1970s, but was revived in the mid-1990s. Historically, Boy Scout Troop 117 is one of the leading Eagle Scout earning troops in the Three Harbors Council.



May Crowning

An athletic program for boys, which included football, basketball, and baseball, was offered as an extra-curricular activity from the school's inception in 1940. In the school's earliest years, equipment for the sports teams was furnished through the generosity of the men of the parish. By the 1950's, the Christ King Athletic Association hosted annual fundraisers that often featured sports celebrities. In 1953, former World Heavyweight Boxing Champion, Jack Dempsey spoke at the Christ King Athletic Banquet. The Christ King Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) became active at Christ King in 1945 for the purpose of providing a common meeting ground for "young men and young ladies of the parish of high school age and to further a program of religious, cultural, social and athletic activity for them." CYO remains at Christ King (now known as CYM), sponsoring numerous high school athletic teams.

In June 1943, Christ King Parish secured an additional land purchase. For the sum of \$4,560, the Congregation acquired 6 lots adjacent to the original property along Center Street between Swan Road (92nd St) and 91st Street. These 6 lots, located within the City of Milwaukee, gave the Congregation clear title to the entire square block. The majority of Christ King Parish is within the City of Wauwatosa, however, the north end of the campus—from approximately the middle of the gym to Center Street—is within the City of Milwaukee. Several years later, the Center Street land was covered with hard surfacing and prepared as an all-weather play and parking area. Previously the play area was grassy and very muddy when wet.

With further building plans in mind, Fr. Huepper announced a November 4-11, 1945 concentrated effort to “wipe out the existing mortgage obligation,” which was \$51,000. By the end of 1945, pledges to this effort were \$55,801.50. The amount pledged surpassed the Building Committee’s goal by more than \$5000.

By 1945, Christ King needed to turn the second floor of the school building (the current Chapel) into classrooms because there was no more space to house the growing school enrollment. Desiring to build a new ground-level “Chapel,” at the north end of the School building, Fr. Huepper was temporarily frustrated by the post-war restrictions on new construction. Writing in the 1946 *Annals*, Fr. Huepper reported, “We did set out to accomplish the construction of our Chapel to provide added facilities for divine services and to liberate our present chapel space for much needed school classrooms... When finally governmental permission was obtained to enter upon construction and only upon a curtailed program, there were so many hindrances that we have been unable to build in one year what normal conditions would not have taken more than six months.”



Exterior View of Basement Chapel

Approval for construction of the new ground-level Chapel (current North Hall) was finally obtained in March 1946. Ground was broken on March 25, 1946, but a March 26th restraining order issued by the United States Government curtailing all commercial construction (including churches and schools), further delayed building the new worship space (North Hall).

Christ King Parish' third worship space, the "New Chapel" (current North Hall), wasn't ready for use until June 1947. The new below-ground Chapel was adjacent to the north side of the existing School. Although it wasn't pleasant to the eye because of its unsightly cement roof and temporary wood frame entrance, the New Chapel was built in this fashion as preparation for more construction to sit atop it. The New Chapel was privately blessed by the Pastor, and Mass was celebrated for the first time on June 8, 1947.



Ground Level Chapel (currently the North Hall)

The 1947 school year opened September 8, with 4 new classrooms (the former second floor chapel of the original school was now converted to classroom use), an enrollment of 301, and a new loud speaker system.

On December 8, 1947, the Parish officers and directors unanimously voted to proceed with the erection of a Sister's Convent. Excavation commenced on February 16, 1948, and in July 1949, nine nuns moved from the Notre Dame Convent in Elm Grove to the new Christ King Convent.

The 10th Anniversary of Christ King Parish was celebrated October 22-30, 1949 with a Solemn Novena of Thanksgiving and the annual Forty Hours Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. November 13, 1949 was earmarked as "Parish Gift Day," a day when parishioners were asked to respond to a letter of appeal from the Pastor seeking monetary gifts in commemoration of the Parish's 10th Anniversary. Cash received and pledges promised realized more than \$45,000.



Convent

The 1950's – Growth, Growth, Growth

By the early 1950s, five Sunday Masses were needed to meet the worship needs of the rapidly growing parish; Mass times were: 7:30, 8:00, 9:00, 10:30, and 11:30 am. Several Masses saw standing-room-only on a regular basis, with worshippers filling the stairs leading down to the Chapel (North Hall).

On April 26, 1950, the Building Committee agreed to install an additional boiler and convert Christ King School from coal to oil. At the same meeting, the decision was reached to construct an addition to the south side of the school. The new addition would include eight classrooms, a basement auditorium (South Hall), a kitchen (current music room), a garage for the mechanical equipment of the parish (old South Hall Annex, now a 1st grade classroom), and a school library (above the garage). Excavation of the school addition began on September 18, 1950. Wood-hewn crucifixes were purchased by the school children for the new classrooms through a candy sale that raised \$300; these crucifixes remain in place today. The new school addition was open for the start of the 1951-52 school year. The school library (above the new garage) opened in November, allowing all classes to enjoy a bi-weekly library period.

The 1951 School reopening, which included the eight new classrooms, again was delayed (September 30) by order of the Health Department. The 1953 school year witnessed an exceedingly large increase in 1st grade enrollment, resulting in half- day sessions to ensure adequate teaching facilities. Scheduled parent-teacher conferences and an open house were held for the first time in January 1954. When school opened in 1954, enrollment was 980. Seventeen nuns lived at Christ King (1 Superior, 1 Principal, 13 classroom teachers, 1 music teacher, 1 school office, 1 housekeeper); 4 lay teachers completed the teaching staff.



In his annual report, Fr. Huepper described 1952 as a “year of unprecedented growth.” Valentines Day 1952 found children intent upon offering as many valentines as possible to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Each valentine took the form of a \$5.00 offering for the ransoming of a pagan baby. Adoptions totaled 62 pagan babies.

On March 28, 1953 the Building Committee established a Foundation Fund for the construction of the “New Church.” Since the Congregation’s inception, a large free-standing Church had been planned for Christ King Parish. In 1953, a parish campaign was organized to raise \$300,000. In the first week of the campaign, November 1-8, \$222,885 was pledged. Plans were drawn for the New Church and the necessary expansion of adjacent buildings (the front and back of the Rectory, the back of the Convent, and the current breezeway). Archdiocesan approval for the New Church building project was granted in January 1955, and Vatican approval was received in March 1955. A loan of \$1,000,000 was arranged as a 25-year mortgage.



Church under Construction: July 1955

Groundbreaking for the New Church took place on March 19, 1955 (the Feast of St. Joseph), and the cornerstone was blessed and placed by Archbishop Albert G. Meyer on July 31, 1955. Construction of the New Church and adjacent buildings would take almost one and one half years.



Church under Construction: October 1955

December 16, 1956 marked the formal dedication and blessing of the “New Church” by Archbishop Albert G. Meyer, and on December 18, the New Church altars were consecrated. Relics reposed in the Altar were of the Martyrs, Saints Modestinus and Laitus. On January 17, 1957 the Way of the Cross was officially erected in the New Church.

At the time the New Church was completed, Christ King Parish claimed 1,600 registered families.



Dedication Mass, December 1956

The “New Church,” as it first was called, is a dramatic and imposing structure. The New Church, which originally held seating for 1,200, also included a bride’s room, parish office area, and abundant storage space. The lower level of the Church housed four restrooms (one equipped with a shower), a large storage area, and two basement rooms originally designated as vestment rooms. Later these rooms were used as a choir room, childcare room, science classroom, parish council room, and youth room. An underground tunnel surrounds the Church’s outer perimeter and connects with tunnels leading to the Parish Center (convent) and School. The New Church’s balcony was designed to hold what was described as “one of the largest organs in the Middle West,” and to accommodate the Men’s Choir, which at that time numbered 65 members. Family rooms were located on each side of the choir balcony.

In addition to the main Church, a small “Sisters’ Chapel,” composed of the same materials used in the Church proper, was constructed on the north side of the church and connected to the Convent. In a lengthy article announcing the New Church’s dedication, the December 15, 1956 *Milwaukee Sentinel* observed: “...beauty in simplicity is the theme of the inside of the new Christ King Church... A study of beauty in simplicity occupies the 2600 block of N. Swan Blvd.” The *Sentinel* article went on to note that the New Church was constructed earlier in the parish’s history than was usually the case. According to the *Sentinel*, most parishes were not able to construct a church building until “after the quarter-century mark, but Christ King had to do it much earlier.”



Completed Church and Rectory

As the Parish continued to grow, Fr. Huepper anticipated the need for more classroom space. In his 1959 Pastor’s report,” Fr. Huepper wrote: “...We have exhausted all available areas for school purposes and soon we will be faced with the necessity of proper, more adequate facilities for classrooms.” The final school addition to fulfill this need would be the “gym addition.”

Christ King’s Christmas Midnight Mass, December 25, 1959, was televised over WTMJ-Channel 4. The last Christmas Midnight Mass at Christ King was held in 1990.

The 1960's – A Time of Change

Proceeds from the 1960 School Spring Festival, totaling \$2,000, went toward the parish's purchase of a new Nativity set for the Church. It is believed these funds paid for at least a part of the crib set currently displayed in Church during the Christmas season.

The School's largest enrollment was realized at the start of the 1960-61 school year. Three classrooms for each grade (grades 1-8)—managed by a teaching staff of 18 nuns, 3 laywomen, and 3 laymen—handled 1,712 students. With the school at peak enrollment, Christ King utilized every available area for classroom space. A section of the basement of the New Church (current Youth Room) became a science room, and the east end of the Auditorium (South Hall) was walled off to create classroom space. By the late 1960s the number of religious faculty began to decline rapidly; only 10 nuns remained as teachers in 1969 with eleven laywomen and four laymen. Christ King's first lay principal, Robert Boehm, was hired in 1985. In 1985, the parish formed the first School Board (now known as the School Committee) as a committee of the Parish Council. In 1988, for the first time in its 44 year history, Christ King charged a school tuition of \$600 per student; Christ King reportedly was one of the last parishes in the Archdiocese to charge tuition. Christ King School graduated a class of 3 in 1941, and by the 1960's consistently graduated classes as large as 165. For the 1991-1992 school year, Christ King added kindergarten classes (half day K4 and half day K5) for the first time.

With the 1960-61 school enrollment at 1,712, Christ King School was seriously overcrowded. Fr. Huepper's desire for more space became an immediate necessity when the Wisconsin Industrial Commission ordered Christ King to relocate some of the basement classrooms; the order was to be complied with by June 1963. Fr. Huepper reported this to the congregation, saying, "It is quite evident that as we expand the School to sufficient classrooms for our enrollment, we will also include in our construction program the long sought and hoped for Gymnasium. It would be folly to do less." At all Masses October 7, 1962, Fr. Huepper informed the congregation of the campaign to obtain funds for the construction of an addition that would include six classrooms, a gymnasium with locker rooms, and a new kitchen.

On November 29, 1964, the new "Gym Addition" was blessed by Archbishop William Cousins. The gymnasium and the six new carpeted classrooms were occupied on December 2, 1963. When completed, the gym and kitchen were considered state-of-the art facilities. The gymnasium-classroom addition would be the final stage in the building program that was initiated in the Spring of 1940.



Most Reverend Archbishop Cousins Blessing the Gymnasium

In conjunction with the blessing of the gym addition, Mass and lunch were held to commemorate Christ King Parish's 25th Anniversary. A separate evening reception celebrated Fr. Huepper's twenty-five years as pastor of Christ King Parish. The 1965 *Christ King Annals* report that more than 1,000 parishioners returned for the evening festivities to honor Fr. Huepper.

For the first time since its founding, Christ King Parish "giving" requirements increased. In 1963, the annual family membership fee was raised from \$20 to \$30; individuals with an income were required to pay \$15 per year. And as reported in the *Annals*, "A voluntary assessment is expected of everyone, to be paid weekly in contribution envelopes supplied to all...."

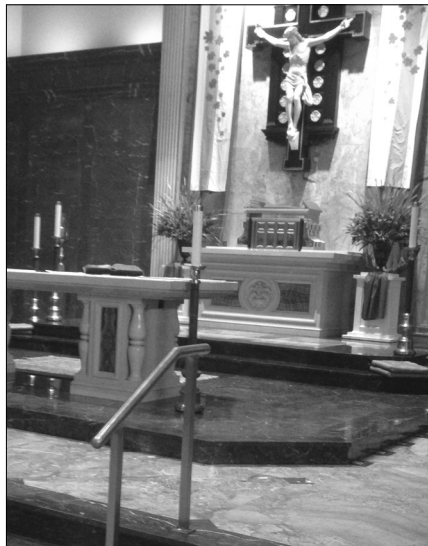
On September 29, 1965, Reverend Monsignor Joseph Huepper died at the age of 70. Fr. Huepper had been appointed a Domestic Prelate (Monsignor) by Pope Paul VI on July 16, 1965. Most Reverend Roman R. Atkielski, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, was appointed to succeed Msgr. Huepper as Pastor of Christ King Parish.

The 1960's witnessed Christ King adapting to the liturgical and environmental changes first initiated by Popes Pius XII and John XXII, and later decreed by the Second Vatican Council (the Council ended in 1965). Auxiliary Bishop Atkielski celebrated the parish's first English-spoken Mass in November 1965, although in doing so, Atkielski met with resistance from some parishioners. The congregation now was encouraged to sing and participate in the Mass by using newly purchased missals.



Original Sanctuary

Amidst continuing division within the Parish, a new Altar Table was constructed in the center of the sanctuary in 1966 to facilitate the decision that the priest must now face the congregation for Mass. The size of the original marble altar was decreased, and its two ends became the new forward-facing altar's base. The relics of Saints Modestinus and Laitus were moved and reposed in the new forward-facing altar.



Detail of Current Sanctuary

In 1969 Pope Paul VI approved the optional reception of Holy Communion on the hand, and people now stood in single file line to receive the Eucharist, thereby rendering the communion rail unnecessary. Although no longer in use, the entire communion rail remained in place until the 1995 Church renovation. With the change in fast regulations, and the encouragement of Vatican II proclamations, people began receiving communion on a more regular basis. To accommodate the growing number receiving communion, three pews in the middle of the Church on each side of the center aisle were removed to allow for more efficient communion distribution.

Christ King lost its second pastor with the June 30, 1969 death of Bishop Atkileski. Atkileski was succeeded by Most Reverend Leo Brust, Auxiliary Bishop of Milwaukee. Bishop Brust remained Christ King's pastor until he was named Vicar of the Archdiocese in 1978.

The 1970's – A Time of Transition

During the 1970s, lay formation programs such as marriage and baptismal prep were instituted at Christ King. The Saturday evening Vigil Mass began in the 1970s, and quickly grew in popularity. In 1971, Christ King instituted its first guitar Masses. In 1978, Monsignor Francis Beres became the fourth Pastor of Christ King Parish.

Christ King was privileged to have one of its own parishioners ordained as one of the Archdiocese's first permanent deacons. Arthur Dallman was ordained to the permanent diaconate on December 26, 1975. Deacon Dallman served Christ King Parish for 38 years until his death in 2013 at the age of 92.

The 1980's – New Ministries, New Involvement

The 1980s was a decade of increased lay involvement in the liturgical and sacramental life of Christ King Parish. Lay men and women, trained as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, began distributing Communion at Christ King in 1980. Reportedly, Christ King was one of the last parishes in the area to grant this role to the laity. Also in 1980, Christ King hired its first Director of Religious Education. Lay volunteers continued to participate in many formation programs. Christ King was one of the first area parishes to offer an RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) Program in 1983.

Christ King followed Archbishop Rembert Weakland's request that each parish form a parish council. Christ King Pastor, Monsignor Francis Beres, appointed a 21 member steering committee to prepare the parish for this consultative body. The first parish council was elected in May 1981; the new council included 13 members elected by the parish and 6 ex-officio members (3 priests, 2 trustees, 1 school principal). One of the council's first tasks was to organize various committees to oversee parish life.

In 1993, the council adopted discernment as the means by which new councilors were selected to parish council. In 2012, Christ King was one of the first parishes to follow the Archdiocese's new council guidelines by replacing the parish council with a pastoral council and to form a finance council to comply with the letter of the Code of Canon Law.

Fr. Ronald Crew was named Christ King Parish's fifth pastor on January 1, 1986. Fr. Crew succeeded Monsignor Beres who had been named Vicar of Religious for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. In September 1986, Fr. Crew announced a renovation to the rectory to add office space and provide clearly defined residence and work areas. Because more office space was needed for business operation, the pastor's quarters were moved to the second floor (from the green room). Under Fr. Crew, Christ King implemented the Archdiocesan policy of priests paying rent from their salary. In 1987, Fr. Crew sent a letter to parishioners announcing that the Feast of Christ the King, which falls on the fourth Sunday in November, would become the Parish's patronal feast day

The 1990's – We're Getting Older

Rev. Dennis Ackeret became Christ King's sixth pastor in June 1990. Fr. Ackeret would remain Pastor of Christ King Parish until 2003. Describing his arrival at Christ King, Fr. Ackeret wrote, "In real estate parlance, Christ King was a 'fixer-upper.' The roof leaked, much needed painting had been postponed repeatedly, and there wasn't even furniture in the rectory..." On the weekend of October 4-1991, Fr. Ackeret launched "Share the Spirit," a three year \$1,000,000 capital campaign to repair and update parish facilities and establish a preventative maintenance program.



Mid-1990's Renovation

Projects realized from this campaign were: extensive repair and refurbishing of the Church's interior in 1995, significant roof repair, a new sound system for the Church, restoration of the previously inoperable Church bells, the dismantling of the marble and brass communion rail, all marble (including the statues) was checked and cleaned, the baptistery was relocated, all pews were removed and refinished, the originally intended gold leaf paint was added, the former baptistery became a space designated for funeral visitation, the three blank window-like openings on the Church's south wall now held commissioned renderings of the Nativity, the Presentation, and the Wedding Feast at Cana, and new furniture was purchased for the North and South Halls. During the interior Church refurbishing, Sunday Masses remained in the Church with scaffolding up and various sections sealed off, but daily Masses and funerals were moved to the North Hall. In 2013, the windows of the Sister's Chapel were secured in order to allow this space to be used as additional worship space or family room.

In the early 1990s Christ King entered a "twinning" relationship with the Congregation of the Great Spirit, the first urban Native American Congregation in the country. In the mid 1990s, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee introduced the concept of parish "clusters"; Christ King Parish was clustered with St. Bernard and St. Pius X Parishes. The clustering program called for clustered parishes to explore ways to work together and share resources. The most notable outcome of this effort thus far, is the three-parish shared Youth Ministry Program known as the "Tosa Trio", and a shared holiday Mass schedule that began in 1994.

In 1999, by mutual agreement between Christ King Parish and the School Sisters of Notre Dame, the remaining 4 nuns living in the Christ King Convent (none of whom were employed by the Parish) moved from Christ King to the Notre Dame Convent in Elm Grove. This decision was reached because the convent building was significantly underutilized, it required extensive repair and updating, and the parish needed additional meeting space. With the Sister's departure on July 30, 1999, the Convent (now known as the Parish Center) provided 5 additional useable meeting areas.

The 2000's – New Growth

In June 2003, Msgr. T. George Gajdos was named Christ King's seventh pastor. Msgr. Gajdos served Christ King until his retirement in December 2012. Seeing the need to increase and update Parish office space, to repair and update portions of the school, to repair and better utilize the Parish Center, and to bring Christ King facilities into accessibility compliance, Fr. George began planning the next phase of Christ King's physical improvements. "Ensure A Spirited Tomorrow (EAST)", a fundraising campaign to raise money for these capital improvements, was launched in 2005, and repair and remodeling plans were finalized. At this time the decision was made that the Parish would again carry a mortgage so that all three facilities would be completed as one undertaking rather than follow a more expensive piecemeal plan for completion.

Construction began in the spring of 2006. The changes included upgrades to the Church's 1955 electrical system. The original 1955 transformers, located below the 91st narthex, were removed and transitioned to a new transformer located outside the east side of the Church. The Rectory (now also known as the Parish Office) saw improvements to electrical service, offices, a conference room, and central air conditioning were added to the second floor, and a more defined separation for priest's living quarters was designed. In the School, changes and additions included: creation of a new atrium and secure entry, the installation of an elevator and new windows, the central office complex was relocated and enlarged, the faculty lounge was relocated and updated, bathrooms were remodeled and a first floor girl's bathroom was added. The school electrical system was upgraded and HVAC work improved classroom air quality. The original convent was repaired and configured to become the Christ King Parish Center. To create the new Parish Center, the 91st Street narthex's west wall was removed creating an open gathering space, a new parish library was added, bathrooms were relocated and upgraded, dining space was enlarged, the kitchen was remodeled, the small convent "cells" were rearranged to create small and medium-size meeting rooms, and an elevator and steel staircases were added. A complex task in creating the Parish Center gathering space was the relocation of the Our Lady of Fatima mosaic that was located on the back wall of the original 91st Street narthex. The mosaic's artist was contacted, and the entire marble wall panel was removed and set in place on the west wall of the new Parish Center Gathering Space.



Mosaic of Our Lady of Fatima

With the exception of the School entry, the Rectory and School additions were ready for use in September 2006. The Parish Center, which had encountered problems with the elevator installation, the need to add additional structural support, and an unexpected need for an upgraded fire suppression system, was ready for use by January 2007. Archbishop Timothy Dolan blessed the new facilities, and joined parishioners for a spaghetti dinner on the Feast of Christ the King, November 25, 2006.



Archbishop Timothy Dolan Blessing Crucifix for School Entryway

Because the parish now carried a mortgage, Fr. Gajdos introduced another capital campaign in 2007—“Entrusting Our Work to the Lord” (WEST). The underachieving WEST Campaign was interrupted by the 2009 Archdiocesan Faith in the Future Campaign. In this diocesan-wide appeal, resources were shared between the diocese and parish.

In June 2013, Fr. Phillip Bogacki became Administrator of Christ King Parish and on November 1, 2014 was named Christ King’s eighth pastor. As Christ King Parish enters the next phase of its remarkable journey, Fr. Phillip eagerly seeks to continue Christ King’s amazing legacy of faith, generosity, and community. Like all parishes, Christ King is called by God to be a place where holiness abounds. In the spirit of thanksgiving, community, and commitment, Fr. Phillip pledges to help parishioners—of all ages and all stages of life—seek God’s holiness and answer their call to live as God’s intentional disciples, evangelizers, and stewards.

Christ King Pastors

In thanksgiving for their service, their example, and for all they did to help Christ King Parish become the faithful and vibrant community it is today, we acknowledge and remember....

Reverend Monsignor Joseph J. Huepper	1939-1965
Most Reverend Roman J. Atkielski	1965-1969
Most Reverend Leo J. Brust	1969-1978
Reverend Monsignor Francis M. Beres	1978-1985
Reverend Ronald O. Crewe	1986-1990
Reverend Dennis R. Ackeret	1990-2003
Very Reverend Monsignor T. George Gajdos	2003-2012
Very Reverend Phillip A. Bogacki	2013-present

