

New Church Project Status – October 29

Progress has continued during October. The foundation of our new Worship space is ready for the masonry walls to be placed on top of it. The center of the new Worship Space has been filled in and you can now clearly see the shape of the building and the slope of the floor. We're moving forward quickly now and had expected to see the walls start to rise by now. The sub-contractor is a bit behind their start date, but we have been assured that they will complete the walls on schedule. The steel roof is scheduled to be raised in November and we hope to be closed up for internal construction before the end of the year.

The new adjunct to the North parking lot is taking shape. We again apologize to those of you who were accustomed to parking in the fenced off construction area, but we are in the process of adding 40 additional parking spaces in our North parking lot (rear of the Church). We expect the new parking spaces will be available before Christmas. In the interim we may have an occasional overflow problem, but parking at most masses should not be impacted. We are hopeful that capacity related parking issues will be alleviated quickly. Additional handicapped spaces were also added in the North parking lot in September. If you need assistance from your car during our construction period please ask. We have people ready and willing to help you get to and from the Church safely.

As mentioned last month, we now have to get ready to experience a few inconveniences. Nothing that we can't handle, but there will be some months which will test our resolve. In January, at the earliest, we will begin work expanding the main rest rooms. We say "at the earliest" because there is a chance that the schedule will be moved out further for this inside work. We have tried to plan our work during the winter months because we always lose a few "snow birds" to the Florida sunshine. Starting in January or later in the winter, work on the new restrooms will begin. This is scheduled to be completed within 3 months and then we will have new, more modern restrooms available for your use. During the 3 month period we will still have the restrooms in the Faith Formation area available for your use. The new restrooms will be handicap accessible and when completed will almost double our current capacity. A couple of them will be "family friendly" ... comfortable places for Mom or Dad to bring the little ones and have privacy.

The work on the new restrooms will also require us to relocate approximately 88 seats. The section of pews closest to the reservation chapel will be removed when the restroom work begins. We have plans to relocate these seats into the main church area. Many of the seats will be closer to the altar, but some will be a bit farther away. Please bear with us when this work begins. It will be worth the wait, the seats in the new Worship Space will allow all to have a close, clear vision of the altar. Everyone will be able to select their new "favorite seat" when we move into the New Worship Space. If you have any questions regarding this please contact one of us.

Some additional construction will be visible inside the Church as we install the required sprinkler systems in the existing Church and Faith Formation wings. We still expect to be in the new Church next summer.

Finally, we ask that during the construction period you drive carefully through our parking lots and driveway. On weekdays construction workers and construction vehicles will frequently be in the driveway and parking lot near the construction area as you enter and/or leave church. **Please be careful. We do not want you or any of the workers to be injured during this period.**

Please obey all posted driving signs, including directional flow signs. If a worker is directing traffic please follow the directions given. The safety of our parishioners, employees, and the construction workers are our primary concern.

Again, we will do everything we can to minimize construction related inconveniences. They will hopefully lead to a far better facility and experience for us all. **Please bear with us over the next 9-10 months as we prepare our new Worship Space.**

As of September 30, 2016, 1,093 parishioners have pledged an average amount just under \$3,100, and we have \$6.225M designated for the project. **This is approximately 92% of our goal.** We're not quite there yet, but continue to make progress and are pleased to report that new pledges and donations still continue to come in each month!

Thank you to all who have pledged, who have donated without pledging, and who have prayed for our success. Your generosity and support is very much appreciated.

As mentioned previously, we have started the process of reaching out to foundations and benefactors to help pay for the restoration of our stained glass windows and Pipe Organ. We will keep you apprised of our progress restoring these wonderful pieces of religious art.

We will continue to update you monthly on progress as we move through the project, but if you have any questions about the project, please review the materials on our parish website (www.stedwardsny.org) or contact a member of the Master Planning or Capital Campaign Committees.

Yours in Christ,

Father Patrick Butler

Sue Martin – Co-Chairman

Chick Cairo – Co-Chairman