

New Church Project Status – September 3

“We’re Off!!!!”

At Saratoga this time of year we hear, “They’re Off!” For our project ... “We’re off!!!!”

There is notable progress for you to see. We have dug trenches, poured footings, and are starting to lay the physical foundation of the new Church. Even though we started a few weeks later than planned, we expect minimal impact to the overall schedule. We still expect to be in the new Church next summer. We hope that you will be able to see even more progress monthly as we go through the fall.

We’ve already experienced a few inconveniences during this first month of construction. The cable and gas lines were both inadvertently broken by the heavy equipment, cutting off internet access and gas to the building, but there were no injuries and everything is up and running again. We expect that there will be other inconveniences as we move along, but will try to keep these to a minimum. Most issues will hopefully go unnoticed by the majority of parishioners, but some will be visible. As mentioned last month, at some point we will need to close the main restrooms to expand and refurbish them. We will still have the restrooms in the Faith Formation wing available during the refurbishment, but there will be fewer stalls available for your use.

Some parking has been disrupted. We apologize to those of you who were accustomed to parking in the fenced off construction area, but we are in the process of putting 40 additional parking spaces in our north parking lot (rear of the Church) to replace those we lost. 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 when the additional 40 spaces become available for your use in the November/December timeframe.

Additional handicapped spaces have been added in the north parking lot as well. If you need assistance from your car during this construction period please ask. We have people ready and willing to help you get to and from the Church safely.

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.

Also, some construction will be visible at times inside the Church and Faith Formation wings. Initially some ceiling tiles will be disturbed while we install the required sprinkler systems. Later in the project, there will be some construction visible behind the altar as we prepare to and then connect the new church to the existing structure.

Again, we will do everything we can to minimize these inconveniences. They will hopefully be for only short periods of time and will lead to a far better facility and experience for us all. **Please bear with us over the next 12 or so months as we prepare our new Worship Space.**

As of July 31, 2016, 1,076 parishioners have pledged an average amount just under \$3,100, and we have \$6.24M designated for the project. **This is approximately 93% 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