

Town Planning Board Approval

We are pleased to report that our New Church project was approved by the Clifton Park Town Planning Board at the Planning Board meeting on Tuesday, February 10. The approval was contingent upon receipt of final paperwork and plans as presented to the Planning Board at the meeting.

To obtain approval we agreed to a number of minor requests. These include moving our bike rack to the north entrance of the church, stripping a pedestrian walkway across the current parking lot from the new north parking area to the entrance to the church, reserving space for a future 15 foot easement on our property at Clifton Park Center Road, and agreeing that when/if the Town adds a sidewalk/bike path on Clifton Park Center Road that crosses our property that we would consider building a sidewalk from the sidewalk/bike path to the Church. The plans will show a possible location of a future walk. We also agreed to plant a few additional trees on the east side of our property.

We can now begin the next phase of our project ... Design Development & Cost Review. Design Development & Cost Review will begin on March 1 and take approximately 4 months to complete. Immediately following the Detail Design & Cost Phase we can create Construction Documents. The Construction Documents are basically detailed instructions on what we want built. These will be used to bid out our project. Creation of Construction Documents will take approximately 4 months and we expect to have them completed by October 31, 2015.

Immediately following completion of the Construction Documents we will go to Bid. The Open Bid Process will take approximately 2 months to prepare our Request for Proposal, evaluate the Bids, and select and award the contract to build the New Church. The contract to build the New Church will be awarded in an Open Bid Process. All aspects of the project will be awarded through this competitive bid approach. At the same time we are going through the Open Bid Process we will submit our Site Plan Application & Building Permit Application to the Town.

These activities will take up all of 2015. We will do everything we can to speed the process, but also recognize that we need to do the job right and come as close to our budget as possible. We will be ready to break ground as early as January 1, 2016. However, every contractor we have spoken with, as well as the Town Planning Board, advises that we do not break ground in the winter. Doing so would add as much as \$300,000 to the cost of the project. Therefore, being mindful of the costs and wanting to spend money on the Church structure itself and not on winter construction, we will wait until the Spring of 2016 to break ground.

As of February 1, 2015, 912 parishioners have pledged an average amount just over \$3,400, and we have \$5.82M designated for the project. **This is approximately 87% of our goal.** We're not quite there yet, but 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.

We will be updating you periodically on progress, but if you have any questions about the Building Project, the Capital Campaign, or any other phase of 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