New Church Project Status – October 1

**Now we’re excited!!!!!**

We’ve made a lot of progress this past month. We have poured the footings and the foundation of our new Worship space and we’ve carved out the space for the parking spaces in the back. We’re moving forward quickly now and soon you will see walls start to rise. As stated last month, we expect to be in the new Church next summer. You will be able to see progress each month as we go through the fall.

We’ve now got to get ready to experience a few of the inconveniences we discussed last month. Nothing we can’t handle, but there will be a few months which will test our resolve. In January we will begin work expanding the main rest rooms. This has been planned during the winter months because we always lose a few “snow birds” to the Florida sunshine in January. By the time they return the new restrooms will be ready. The restrooms should be finished and ready by Easter. 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.

Also, some construction will be visible inside the Church. Beginning in January we will install the required sprinkler systems in the existing Church and Faith Formation wings. We will also lose some seats as we prepare the Parlor and restroom areas. We will do our best to make additional seating available during busy periods. Please bear with us during this timeframe … it will be worth it.

Finally, 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 putting 40 additional parking spaces in our north parking lot (rear of the Church). We expect the new parking spaces will be available in the November/December timeframe. 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 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.**

Again, we will do everything we can to minimize these 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 August 31, 2016, 1,091 parishioners have pledged an average amount just under $3,100, and we have $6.24M 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](http://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