New Church Project Status – February 3

By now we hope that you and your family have enjoyed participating in Mass in the new worship space and that the new church meets (or exceeds) your expectations!

The construction is complete. There are a few minor items that need to be added or corrected, but the Sano-Rubin crew has moved on to another job. We have a few more surprises coming soon (a new altar, new ambo, the organ façade, and some additional artifacts), but essentially the new church is completed.

We again want to thank Kerns Group, Sano-Rubin, and all of the sub-contractors, especially Parkway Music, Saratoga Sound Solutions, Miller, Beam & Paganelli, L.A. Carlson & Son, Leo Corvino & Son, and Chapman Stained Glass Studio for doing a terrific job.

We also want to thank our own team. Freeman Project Management Services and every one of the dedicated parishioners who devoted their time and talents and participated in the variety of committees that have been involved with the project over the past 9 and a half years … yes, it’s been that long … including members of the Finance Committee, Building Committee, Fund Raising Committee, IT committee, Building and Grounds Committee, The Knights of Columbus, and the Parish Council.

Finally, we again want to thank all of our Parishioners for their patience with us, especially over the past 2 years. You’ve been disrupted and displaced, but through it all you kept coming, helping, and giving. Thank you. We couldn’t have done it without everyone’s support.

**Thank You!!!!!**

Now that we’re in the new church we’ve had a few questions. Here are the ones we’ve heard. If you have any others please ask and we’ll do our best to answer them.

* Where’s the front door of the new Church?
  + For now, the doors are where they have always been. We plan to add new exterior doors at the far north end of the new Gathering Area, north of where the old Baptistery was located.
* Why is the driveway just to the right of the new Church blocked with cones?
  + The area immediately next to the new Church is not a driveway, it’s an Emergency Access entrance way. It is meant for Emergency Vehicle use only. It is made with pavers, not blacktop. Come the spring, grass will grow between the pavers and you will see that it’s not meant to be a driveway. If we use it continuously as a driveway the pavers will break and we will have to replace them at extra cost. We do need to snow plow that area and keep it free for access, but please, it is not a driveway and should not be used as one.
* What are we going to put in the new Gathering Area?
  + Currently we are planning four things for this area. An area for a nursery during Mass, a coffee bar, a small storage room, and a play area for kids. These will be completed over the coming year by Parishioners donating their time and talents. We do not want to take on additional external projects until we can pay off the new Church project.

Additionally, the space will be used for social functions of all ages. There are 250 parishioners signed up for the Cabin Fever Party on Feb. 9. We would not be able to host that many people in the Social Hall.

* When will the Organ be installed?
  + We are preparing the necessary materials to provide to the Town to allow us to install the Organ Façade in the choir area. Once the Town approves we will be able to provide an estimated time for installation in the church.
* What’s the status of the new Altar?
  + The new Altar is made out of marble from the Altar Railing from St. Joseph’s Church in Rensselaer. It is the same material that the Altar in the Reservation Chapel is made from. We expect the new Altar and Ambo will be installed in February.

Please let us know if you have any other questions and we’ll be happy to answer them.

We ask that you drive carefully through our parking lots and driveway. As mentioned in previous bulletin inserts, please let us know if you need assistance to get to the Church from your car. We have people ready and willing to help you get to and from the Church safely.

As of December 31, 2017, 1,213 parishioners have pledged an average amount just under $3,000, and we have $6.74M 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! **If you would like to make a pledge or donation the forms needed are available in the Gathering Area. You can also call the Parish Office and assistance will be provided.** **Memorial Gifts are also still available.**

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

We will continue to update you monthly on our progress paying for the new church, but if you have any questions, 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-Chair Chick Cairo – Co-Chair