

New Church Project Status – December 24

Progress is now really visible. As you can readily see when you enter the parking lot, our new Worship Space is clearly outlined as construction proceeds on the roof and walls. We're moving forward quickly now and expect the entire building to be enclosed a few weeks after Christmas.

The new adjunct to the North parking lot (rear of the Church) was opened in November and numerous parishioners have been using these 40 additional parking spaces. Additional handicapped spaces were also added in the North parking lot. 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. In January, we will begin work expanding the main rest rooms. 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 expect to be in the new Church by the end of the summer. **Please bear with us over the next 9-10 months as we prepare our new Worship Space.**

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 obey all road signs.** All traffic should drive to the right at the top of the driveway. The left branch is now one way only coming out. **This is for your safety and the safety of the workers. Your cooperation is much appreciated. We do not want you or any of the workers to be injured during this period. The safety of our parishioners, employees, and the construction workers are our primary concern.**

Finally, we held a Christmas Raffle this year. We called it the "Christmas Bonus Raffle" and awarded 20 cash prizes on Sunday, December 18. We raised over \$4,500 toward the restoration of the stained glass

windows and handed out prizes totaling \$4,600. Thank you to all who purchased tickets and helped with the ticket sales and congratulations to all the winners. Particular thanks go out to a number of winners who donated all or a portion of their winnings back to the Building Fund. We have also 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.

As of November 30, 2016, 1,106 parishioners have pledged an average amount just under \$3,100, and we have \$6.299M 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.

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