

New Church Project Status – August 11

Phase 1 is nearly complete. We have a few minor additions to make and then Phase 1 is history.

We implemented our hearing assist system the weekend of July 14 and it has been a great success. It is an Induction Loop System that allows users with a telecoil system to sync directly to their hearing aids. The system can also be used by people who do not wear hearing aids. Parishioners at the Welcome Center and the Ushers have been trained on the system and are here to help you get started. The devices are free to use for all Parishioners and their Guests. Stop at the Welcome Center before Mass to learn about the devices and to sign one out.

The front of the Organ Façade has been delivered! The structure is unassembled, awaiting the back section to be completed. If all goes well the entire structure should be assembled and installed in late August-early September. When completed the organ façade will be approximately 24 feet high, 16 feet wide and 10 feet deep.

We also will be adding some “walk off” carpeting to the south end of the Gathering Area to remove water, snow, and salt before entering the Church. Outside we are adding some additional lighting along the walk to the handicap entrance and are awaiting bids for a set of double doors at the south end of the Gathering Area ... to keep the cold outside. Based on the first winter in our new Church these items are needed.

We are also looking at getting the parking lot re-paved. This also is something which is needed. Hopefully all of these items will be done quickly. It's important to note that these last items (walk off carpet, additional outdoor lighting, double doors, and parking lot repaving) are add-ons to our original plans.

We again want to thank everyone involved with the project ... our architects, contractors, and sub-contractors. Most importantly, we want to thank all 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 10 years. 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. When we enter the next phase of construction we will consider add new exterior doors at the far north end of the new Gathering Area, north of where the old Baptistry 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 for Emergency Vehicle use only. It is made with pavers, not blacktop. The grass has now grown between the pavers so you can see it. If we drive over it continuously as a driveway the pavers will break and we will have to replace them at extra cost. We will snow plow that area to keep it free for emergency access in the winter, but please, it is not a driveway and should not be used as one. It is for emergency access only.

- 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 or so by Parishioners donating their time and talents. We do not want to take on additional external projects until we pay off the new Church project. Additionally, the space has been and will continue to be used for social functions of all ages. We had 330 parishioners attend the Cabin Fever Party on Feb. 9, and over 400 people at the Cinco de Mayo event on May 5. We would not be able to host that many people in the Social Hall.

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. Some pot holes and cracks have developed due to the winter weather and construction traffic. We're planning to fix them soon, but in the interim please be careful.

As of July 31, 2018, 1,237 parishioners have pledged an average amount just under \$3,000, and we have \$6.9M designated for the project. **This is approximately 95% 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, who have continued to donate after your pledge has been reached, 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) 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