New Church Project Status – March 10

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.

The new Altar and Ambo were installed this week. The Altar is built from the Altar rail and marble from the Altar at St. Joseph’s Church in Rensselaer. The Ambo was originally located in Westminster Abby in London. It has been restored and repurposed for our use by a number of our Parishioners, specifically Mike Bayer, Jon Brander, Rit and Linda DiCaprio, Lauri Dittmer, Charlie Ducar, and Bill and Marilyn Thornton. Mike Dittmer and Chuck Vivacqua helped with the transportation. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work, it is very much appreciated.

The organ façade design has been submitted to the Town for review and once approved we will move as quickly as possible to install it. 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. Finally, some additional artifacts will be added over time, but essentially once the organ façade and carpeting is installed the new church is complete.

We again want to thank Kerns Group, Sano-Rubin, Parkway Music, Saratoga Sound Solutions, Miller, Beam & Paganelli, L.A. Carlson & Son, Leo Corvino & Son, Chapman Stained Glass Studio, and all the other sub-contractors for doing a terrific job. We also want to thank our own team. Freeman Project Management Services and 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 9 and a half 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. 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. We had 330 parishioners attend 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.

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 February 28, 2018, 1,220 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