

New Church Project Status – February 25

Our new Worship Space is coming together nicely as construction proceeds on the roof decking. The walls are all up and you can see the outline of the final structure clearly now. We're moving forward quickly and expect the entire building to be enclosed in the weeks ahead.

The new adjunct to the North parking lot (rear of the Church) was opened in November. Additional handicapped spaces were also added in the North parking lot. Please remember, 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.

In January we began work expanding the main rest rooms and building the Parlor. This work is proceeding nicely and barring any unforeseen issues should be completed by Easter Sunday. During the construction period the restrooms in the Faith Formation area will remain open. The new restrooms will be handicap accessible and when completed will almost double our previous capacity. Two of them will be "family friendly" ... comfortable places for Mom or Dad to bring the little ones and have privacy. We have not experienced any significant problems with the reduced number of restrooms so far, but are prepared to quickly address any issues that arise. Please let us know of any problems you encounter.

The work on the restrooms and Parlor caused us to lose approximately 40 seats. We removed some pews, but added folding chairs on a temporary basis. We are prepared to add more folding chairs as needed, especially for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

We have also begun working on adding a sprinkler system to much of the existing space. This work will occur mostly during "off peak times" and may be visible inside the Worship Space, Gathering, and Faith Formation areas, but it should not significantly impact any of our activities.

Please bear with us over the next 7-8 months as we prepare our new Worship Space. 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 and the new restrooms will be better able to serve our Parish community. If you have any questions regarding construction or the new Worship Space please contact one of us.

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 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.

The Christmas Bonus Raffle was a big success. We awarded 20 prizes totaling \$4,600 and added over \$4,500 toward paying for the windows. Winners included:

\$1,000 – Tom and Grace Reuter

\$ 500 – Joan O’Hare

Joe Walko

\$ 250 – Pat Bloss

Frank Bradley

Helen Hubert

Maureen Magee

Dona Parker

Owen Shelvin

\$ 100 – Margaret Catellier

Ralph Caruso

Amy L. Ciori-Rusnak

Bob Daly

Bill Manfred

Maryanne Martin

Judy Ortel

Lyn Oyer

Stephen & Donna Reilly Dan Street

Christine Stutphin

Thank you to all who bought tickets, helped sell tickets, and supported our efforts in many other ways. We want to offer a special thank you to those winners who donated all or part of their winnings back to St. Edward’s.

As of January 31, 2017, 1,121 parishioners have pledged an average amount just over \$3,000, and we have \$6.265M 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, 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