

New Church Project Status – December 1

The Organ Façade Is Installed!

The last piece of the puzzle for the New Church is installed! Our Organ Façade is complete, the Organ has been tuned, and this beautiful instrument is finally able to be used for our celebrations. Just in time for our 1st year anniversary in the New Church, December 3, 2018.

The structure looks majestic behind the Altar. It took longer to install than we anticipated, but the workmanship that went into the design and building of the Organ Façade can't be duplicated, it was entirely hand crafted and assembled on site. The Organ Façade is approximately 21 feet high, 16 feet wide and 10 feet deep.

Our hearing assist system has been a great success, helping those with hearing needs to hear the Mass more clearly. If you haven't tried it yet please feel free to do so. The system 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.

We again want to thank all of the dedicated Parishioners who continue to devote their time and talents in the variety of committees that have been involved with the New Church project over the past 10 years. Most importantly, we again want to thank all of our Parishioners for their patience with us, especially over the past 2 years. Through all the construction 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 started to work on the rest of the structure. Chris O'Brien and his Building and Grounds Team including Project Managers John and Peg Serth and volunteers Dan Streett, Tim Leonard, Steve Valenti, and Bernie Drobnicki have done a terrific job refurbishing our storage shed and the Team will soon begin a number of projects in and around the Old Church. These hard-working volunteers are excited to continue to help us restore and add onto our structure and programs.

They are planning a number of things for the Gathering Area and the "old Cave" area including a nursery, a coffee bar, a storage area, and a play area for kids. These will be completed over the coming year or so by Parishioners donating their time and talents. Chris has some great ideas and is always looking for help. He and the Buildings and Grounds Team will be reaching out this winter. If you have skills or just some spare-time they'll be happy to have you join the Team.

We also received a \$10,000 Audio Visual Grant from the Diocese and will be adding a large screen and projector in the Gathering Area, so when it's crowded in the Church the overflow can watch the Mass being streamed on a large screen. We can also use this area for social functions of all kinds. Movie nights for kids and parents, Faith Formation training, etc. There might even be a Super Bowl Party in our future.

As of October 31, 2018, 1,247 Parishioners have pledged an average amount just under \$3,000, and we have \$6.939M 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 periodically 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