

# New Church Project Status – May 5

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We've been in the new worship space 5 months already. 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! As with any new building there have been few minor items that have been added or corrected and there still are a few more to come, but we are almost complete. The first meeting of the Master Planning Committee, the group that was organized to begin plans for our Parish expansion, was held in May 2008, ten years ago ... time flies. We'll be completed soon.

The revised organ façade design has been approved by the Town and our contractor is making the changes needed to install it. We expect it to be installed in June. The organ façade will be approximately 24 feet high and will fill a large area behind the choir. 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. Some additional artifacts will be added inside the Church over time, including the statue of The Blessed Virgin Mary, which was added today. Outside we are adding some additional lighting along the walk to the handicap entrance. We are also reviewing bids for a set of double doors at the south end of the Gathering Area ... to keep the cold outside. Hopefully this will all be done quickly.

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 again 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 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 plan to 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 meant for Emergency Vehicle use only. It is made with pavers, not blacktop. The grass has started to grow between the pavers. When the grass grows in 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 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 we expect well over 300 people at the Cinco de Mayo event today. 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 March 31, 2018, 1,227 parishioners have pledged an average amount just under \$3,000, and we have \$6.73M 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