

Q & A's on our 2016 Church Renewal Project

Will Mass be celebrated in church during the renovation?

Yes! It is important that we continue to gather in the church for the celebration of Holy Mass. During the months of June, July, and August the Sanctuary will be a construction work area and access will be limited. Thus, a mobile wooden altar will be used for the celebration of Mass. This altar will be placed close to the bottom step of the Sanctuary. A small temporary ambo (pulpit) will be used and placed near the altar.

For daily Mass this same altar and ambo will be placed in the center aisle near the Baptismal font. During this time the back half of the church will be used by the assembly as seating for daily Mass.

I ask that you be patient and understanding during this time as circumstances and plans may change according to the needs of the construction team.

If changes are given to us in a timely manner by the construction team we will convey those the week before either by the announcements or in the bulletin.

Will funerals be celebrated in our church during the renovation?

For the proper celebration of a funeral Mass during the time of construction we have made arrangements for funeral Masses to be celebrated in one of 4 nearby churches: Sacred Heart in Rochelle Park, Holy Trinity in Hackensack, St. Peter's in River Edge, and St. Philip's in Saddle Brook.

Our own clergy and funeral ministry team will be at these funerals to celebrate the Masses and to minister to the families of the deceased.

What is the latest update about the restoration of the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary?

Due to aging and severe weather such as hurricanes, the wood frames surrounding the stained glass windows in the Sanctuary began to rot. This caused water damage to the frames and to the walls in the Sanctuary. Our contractor removed one of the windows to have a model made for new frames, and so that a special tempered glass could be made to fit the outside of the stained glass for future protection. This project was, and is, not part of the original restoration project. It is a repair and maintenance issue that is being funded by private donations and our maintenance and repairs account.

The work was to have been done before this, however, due to unforeseen delays, the materials were not ready until recently. Our contractor wisely decided to wait to do the work until the renovation work begins. In this way the dust and debris from both projects will only occur once.

What items will need to be moved for protection during the construction process?

As you know whenever construction takes place a lot of dust and debris is created. With this in mind several items that are part of our church will be removed for safe keeping. These include the Stations of the Cross, the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Tabernacle. Also, the shrine alcoves will be sealed to protect the statues from dust and any possible debris that may become airborne. A statue of Mary will be moved from one of the 2 elevator levels to the rear of the church next to the statue of the Sacred Heart.

It will be a temporary inconvenience as our 3 month church renewal project continues.

How is the church renovation/renewal project being funded?

As we have stated several times one quarter of the proceeds of the sale of the Demarest property will go toward the project. Along with that we will use our share of the *We Are Living Stones* capital campaign for the renewal project.

Private donations have also been made to specific items in our project and these items will be memorialized.

Will the glass-enclosed case holding the Sacred Oils be moved now that the font has been relocated?

The Ambry (the case holding the Sacred Oils) will be moved to an area closer to the new Baptismal font. However, the Ambry that will be used is one that was used prior to the 2000 renovation. It has been refinished and will be placed in a niche to be constructed in the wall to the right of our new Reconciliation Room.

Will the memorial plaques currently located in the back of the church be relocated?

Yes – during the renovation process the memorial plaques currently hanging on the wall near the “cry room” will be relocated to a new “memorial wall” which will be located in the elevator lobby of the church.

In addition to the current memorial plaques several more will be added to reflect those who generously donated to help buy various items for our renovation project.

Some items are still available to memorialize. If you are interested please call or see Fr. Larry.

How long will the work be going on?

The work will begin on Monday, June 6th, and last (hopefully!) until the end of August. The Mass of Dedication is scheduled for Saturday, September 10th, at 5 PM. Most Reverend John Flesey will be the main celebrant of the Mass. Mark your calendars!

I'm excited about the church renewal project! How can I be a part of it?

You can make donations to the project directly by seeing Fr. Larry.