

Frequently asked questions

Why are we doing this project?

Over the last 3 years, we have been exploring ways to make our Sanctuary and the overall Church more assessable. Our sanctuary was not designed with accessibility in mind with many steps to get up to the Altar and another to the tabernacle. Many of the churches in our diocese have already been updated (including the Cathedral) to address accessibility.

Our Canonical Pastor at the time asked that we wait for a priest to be assigned before doing any upgrades. With the assignment of Fr Cliff the project has materialized to include a much needed refresh of both the sanctuary and the naïve.

Who will be performing this work?

Our Parish Council working with our Finance Committee have generated a work list and time line for the interior work. Ed King, Construction Manager of the diocese, will be overseeing the project. Ed has over 30 years of experience working with parishes throughout the diocese. He and his crew will manage the work and the many subcontractors working on the project.

Many of the subcontractors are companies who we already work with or have worked on other neighboring churches; such as, DCI for the sound/video system, Carpet One for the flooring and Brennan Glass for the glass work. Mary Gasparini, one our Trustees, has been appointed by Fr Cliff to be the parish interface with the contractor.

How are we paying for this?

Our Finance Committee has reviewed the total cost of the project along with the future capital needs of our campus with respect to our current fiscal budget and financial standings. They have approved a phase one cost not to exceed 50% of our current savings account; thus, phase one will be paid for by current funds.

This amount will cover the refresh and accessibility of our sanctuary.

Funding beyond phase one along with any other work will need to be generated through a capital campaign.

What other projects are needed to be addressed?

The grounds in front of the church building needs to be addressed as we removed the planters late last year due to their poor condition and safety risk. This work would include side walk/patio type work and lighting needs.

What is included in the phase two project?

Phase two will mainly be the renovation of the naïve; ie, new carpet, refurbish of the pews, security upgrades such as auto locking entrances, updated Video cameras for recording Masses, ADA compliant door and ramp off the back door to the chapel.

When will this work begin?

The contractor wants to begin as soon as possible so the work can be completed by the end of August. We set a start date of June 1st for the main work to begin. Some preparatory work started on Monday May 18th.

Will we be able to use the church during construction?

We will continue to have weekend Masses in the main body of the church during the construction. A plastic curtain will be installed to limit the dust and protect the site of the renovations.

We have scheduled weddings at other locations for the summer.

Daily Masses and the morning weekday Service will be moved to the Parish Center.

Why are we hearing about this just now at the beginning of May right before the work is scheduled to begin?

We were not able to disclose the initial work on a formal level until the project was approved by the Bishop's Office. The Trustee Resolution was approved on April 29th.

When will we see a rendition of the work to be performed?

Our Architect, Dan Fay, is now finalizing prints with changes that were agreed upon in our final design review held in the last week of April.

Is Saint Ann's closing?

There are no plans to close this parish as the Bishop's office approved our Trustee Resolution. St Ann's has been a thriving and growing parish since its inception with Fr Walsh being our initial Pastor more than 100 years ago. The status of our parish remains (as it always has been) in the hands of our parishioners as we continue to be vibrant and sustainable. This refresh and accessibility project will beautify our worship space while being more inclusive for our ministry teams.