

St. Peter Church Construction Project Experiences Delay

Trust me, I know how you're feeling as you read these sad, disappointing words; your feelings were mine when I first heard them! I felt some anger, disappointment, betrayed and misled. After all, I'd been telling you with full confidence in what I was being told that we'd be in our newly expanded, renovated Church by Christmas & I was looking forward to that with all my heart; but now it seems that, like Mary and Joseph, there will not be room for us yet in our inn ... I feel I owe you an explanation of how this has come about:

While blessed for the most part with fine weather for construction, some obstacles arose: the soil for footings beneath the new south addition was rock solid, but under the new north addition the soil was poor; we poured 20 loads of cement, assuring a firm foundation! We had problems getting the amount of cream city brick we needed to have our new wings blend in with the original church. After using up bricks from our own inner walls and bricks donated from a local demolition, our original brick supplier proved less than reliable; we fired them! A new firm with great reputation was quickly vetted, hired, and all the brick we will need was delivered in one week! Of excellent quality, it came from demolition of Annex #3 building on Washington County grounds near Samaritan Home in West Bend and originally made in Slinger's historic brickworks; coincidence or providence? Members of our Long-Range Planning/Construction Committees, along with great partners at Plunkett/Raysich Architects, Catalyst Construction, and all our subcontractors, put in many hours to re-direct all scheduled work during these crises so they would not stymie our schedule; I appreciate and applaud all of them!

What will delay our final occupancy is totally another matter of material procurement involving windows. In order for church to have thermal pane windows, providing greater comfort in heating and cooling seasons as well as protection for placement of our old/new stained glass as being planned by our Stained Glass Committee, a system of sophisticated, specialized extruded frames is needed. These frames have many production steps to meet installation needs; the company making them suddenly changed their lead time from two to four months!

Window delivery will now first be mid-November, not mid-October; they must be installed before we finish the drywall, put case-work around the windows, prepare the floors (new surfaces on both levels), and install the pews! Our Long Range Planning/Construction Committees along with Catalyst Construction are all putting real pressure on this manufacturer and our installation contractor will put in any and as many windows as soon as ready – we hope for shipment in portions as finished, with their installation in time for the church to get a good cleaning and be inspected by Village Building Commission on February 13, with permission for occupancy to follow. **Once granted, pews will be put in during the week of February 13, followed by a final cleaning, some decoration, these allowing us to have our first Masses in our new church by Ash Wednesday, March 01, 2017.**

Our Christmas Masses will be in St. Peter School Gym at 2PM & 4PM Christmas Eve; in St. Lawrence Church at 6:30PM, 8:30PM Christmas Eve; in St. Peter School Gym 8AM, 10AM, and 12 NOON Christmas Day. Our cluster parishes willingly extend us their hospitality for remaining weekend/weekday Masses until our church is done.

I know that this is a lot to take in and that I am asking an awful lot of you to adjust expectations that I and all involved in this historic project gave you in good faith; the fault is no one's but the manufacturer of the window systems we need; in order to have the beautiful church we envision, we have no choice but to wait a bit longer in order to do it right! I and any member of our Long Range Planning/Construction Committees are very willing to talk with you about anything detailed in this release. We long to be in our new church with you and will keep working hard together for our future church. Sincerely Yours, *Very Rev. Richard J. Stoffel, Pastor*