

May 18, 2019

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

This is a joyful time here at St. James. Our long-time dream of a new church is well on its way to becoming a reality. As I reflect on our construction journey, I remember your excitement at the Groundbreaking Ceremony just a little over a year ago, on April 15, 2018, and then again, two weeks later when the cross and sign that had served for several years as a landmark for the site of our new church were removed so that grading and preparation of the site for construction could begin. And I recall several of our long-time parishioners saying to me, "I can't believe this is actually happening; it's been a long time coming!"

We had hoped that construction and the dedication of our new church would take place this summer. However, as you are aware, the weather this winter and spring did not pay attention to our plans. The frigid winter weather and heavy snows and the torrential rains and heavy winds of the past month have caused completion to be delayed. So, currently we are looking at holding the dedication on Saturday, October 19.

However, when the church is completed, there is still more for us to do.

Just as when you make a down payment when buying a house or vehicle, the financial obligations that you agreed to when you made the purchase continue for several years. And, so it is with our church. Thanks to your generosity in making your pledges for this current Capital Campaign, we had the funds required to make a down payment on the cost of the new church and agreed to make payments to the lender, our Diocese, to repay the amount borrowed. And, as you know, paying the loan includes not only paying on the actual amount borrowed but also includes interest on the unpaid balance.

So, in order to pay off the loan as quickly as possible, we will be kicking off a new Capital Campaign in September with new payments to begin in January 2020. Our goal is to repay the loan within 3 years, as this will save us a considerable amount of interest and put us back in a position where we are once again debt free. We will provide more information on this new campaign mid-summer.

We want to again take the opportunity to especially thank all who have been such good stewards to the Building Fund over the past few years. Our current campaign does run through December and we encourage you to remain faithful to your pledge and continue your generosity to this Campaign.

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Mike Roach

Pastor