



2017 St. Mary's Church Renovations - June 11, 2017

After several months of meetings and planning, our Church Renovation Committee has finalized plans and contracts to renovate our church interior. Due to the limited time frame available to perform the work, a 2-Phase Program has been put in place, with Phase 2, flooring and seating, occurring in 2018.

The scope of renovations for this Summer include the much-needed plaster repairs to the ceiling and walls, a complete repainting program, replacement of the wainscoting panels on the walls, a new lighting and speaker system, and other "finishing touches" to the church interior. Also the remediation with regards to the asbestos on the ceiling.

Through the generosity of our Parish contributions to the Diocesan Partners in Faith Program, we will be able to fund our 2017 Program. It is also planned to complete the renovation program in 2018 with new pews, or re-stripping the old pews, and flooring, with our rebates from the Partners in Faith Program.

However, in order to perform these renovations, it will be necessary to close the church to the public from June 22 through August 19. Daily and weekend masses will be held in our school auditoriums for this 8-week period. The Committee asks for your patience and understanding with these inconveniences during the coming months, with the hope and expectations for a new, fresh look for our beloved St. Mary's church.

Sincerely, Scott Patterson, Church Renovation Committee Chairman



2017 St. Mary's Church Renovation Update I – June 25, 2017

The church renovation project is underway! The church officially took up temporary occupation of the SMP auditorium. Keeping in mind, this is the beginning of summer, air conditioning has been added to make the auditorium as comfortable as possible! We have seating for over 240+ parishioners for any given mass. We are using comfortable folding chairs for seating, as there are no pews.

We have moved the statue of Mary from the church which is now located to the right of the altar in the auditorium, The Sacred Heart of Jesus statue is located to the immediate right once you enter the auditorium along with electric votive candles next to the statue. The Tabernacle has been located directly behind the main altar on the stage.

Prior to mass beginning, you can pick up copies of the Missalette, as well as the Gather Song book as you enter the auditorium. At the end of mass, please return these to the tables.

On June 21st the removal of the wainscoting and radiator covers began in preparation for the refinishing of the walls and placement of new wood wainscoting. Certain strategic pews have been temporarily removed to enable access to the areas of the ceiling that require repair. The progress made in just one day is exciting! We know you are all curious as to the progress of the renovation and will attempt to keep you up to speed. Entrance to the church is off limits as this interferes with construction workers and potentially poses a hazard to your safety as scaffolding and construction equipment is in place.

We will provide additional information as the refurbishment progresses through the next weeks. The plan is to be back in church proper by August 19th!

The school will remain open to visit the sacrament.



2017 St. Mary's Church Renovation Update II – July 2, 2017

Excellent progress is being made on the church renovation! The contracted professionals involved with repairing the “infamous crack” between the original church and the “1957” addition has begun with removal of all material that is associated with that area. It promises to look great based on the engineering efforts to address this “unsettling” problem!

Other areas within the church from front to back that have any signs of cracks, bulging plaster or water damage, are being meticulously addressed to beautify the church. Repairs to the walls and ceiling in the choir loft will also proceed. Remember, in preparation for this year's renovation, the roof was repaired, new ice stops installed (where needed) and new gutters replaced the original damaged gutters. This strategic remedy, begun a few years ago, was in preparation for this renovation.

No further water damage has occurred since that time. If you wish to see some of the work being accomplished, go to www.stmarys-denville.org and click on the Church Renovation Updates area to review pictures of the interior as we make progress. We know you are curious, but for your safety, please do not attempt to enter the church at any time, entry places you in jeopardy, as well as construction workers that are repairing, plastering and painting. The main doors to the school auditorium are open if you wish to visit the sacrament during the day. An area in front of the auditorium has been set up for various drop-offs, such as Food Drive and Beta Club projects.

Look for Update III next week!



2017 St. Mary's Church Renovation Update III – July 9, 2017

It's amazing what has happened in just 2 weeks! The plaster professionals continue to uncover cracks that were previously hidden by the painting done in the past. The "infamous crack" in the ceiling is now being restored as mentioned before, but now restoration continues from ceiling to floor on both sides of the church. Great care is being taken in the protection and restoration of the Stations of the Cross as the plastering continues. In some areas of the church, as many as five coats of plaster have been used to eliminate not only the cracks, but give a much straighter finish to the walls. In all, the work is time consuming but the workers are determined to have the church look as if it is brand new!

You're invited to visit www.stmarys-denville.org to see the new photos of Update III. These photos show the extensive uncovering of cracks in the east walls that will be plastered by the time you read this, while the upper portion of the west walls are receiving their finishing coats of plaster. Once both sides of the church upper walls are finished, work will begin at the floor level on both sides below the stained glass windows to the floor, this is in preparation for the new wainscoting. This new wainscoting has detail that will enhance the overall look of the church, much different than the old walls.

As work continues on the floor level of the church, it is important to not enter the church as the plasterers finish their work. Then the church needs a chance to "dry" before the painters and construction teams can proceed with their respective finishing of the walls on the walls.

It's important to note, all this work is Phase I of the restoration in the church. The floors and the pews will be addressed in Phase II which is scheduled for next year.

The school auditorium remains open during the week for visitation of the sacrament all day. Your drop-off items have designated areas in the school lobby, please continue to support these efforts.



2017 St. Mary's Church Renovation Update III – July 16, 2017

Progress continues at a positive pace! The plaster work is finishing and the painting preparation is beginning. Repairs to the air-conditioning system were needed, as some of the vent systems required maintenance to not only get them operating at 100%, but seal air leaks that allowed intrusion of outside heated air, reducing their overall efficiency.

The new wainscoting requires expert installation and will be stained to match the overall new look that the church proper will have. Repair and leveling of the sidewall steam radiators (they are under the grill work) is beginning soon. These radiators require replacement of the individual regulators that should improve efficiency, as well as evenly distribute the heat to all areas of the church.

Repairs to the church are like “peeling back the layers of an onion”, there are unexpected issues that arise and great care is being taken to resolve them individually. This dedication to performing “quality” repairs will be a major benefit to St. Mary's and our parishioners for many years to come.

As work continues, please do not enter the church for a “peek” as this presents a danger, not only to you, but the workers who are on high scaffolds, ladders and scissor lifts.

We have heard many positive comments from parishioners about the transformation and comfort of the auditorium as our temporary place of worship, including the additions of the “Stations of the Cross”. Thank you for your patience and continued support!

The Auditorium remains open during the week for visitation of the Sacrament all day. Please make certain any drop off items are placed in their respective areas in the school lobby. Please continue to support all these efforts.