



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 IV – 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.

2017 St. Mary's Church Renovation Update V – July 23, 2017

Progress proceeds! At this point, all areas of the church are being addressed with meticulous attention being paid to the areas at eye level and way above, up to the peak of the ceiling! The colors are chosen and the painters are addressing any area that requires attention to detail with clean lines of transition from the ceiling color to the walls.

The church is being repaired in areas you might not expect, such as the main doorway that is the transition from the Narthex to the entry doors to the Church. The wood paneling has been removed with clean walls restored to the way the church originally looked. The area for the Sacred Heart of Jesus has seen the 1960's floor to ceiling wood paneling removed, the walls will be more appealing with a new look fitting in with overall décor of the church.

Entrance to the church is still restricted to "workers only" as the scaffolding, plastic on the floor and other obstacles exist. We want to maintain 100% safety for everyone involved, which also means we stay on schedule.

The auditorium is open all day for visitation of the Sacrament. Get the word out to your friends that attending church in the auditorium has been very pleasant and is air conditioned to make everyone comfortable!

2017 St. Mary's Church Renovation Update VI – July 30, 2017

Painters are closing the finishing aspects on the interior of the church. The main entrance from the Narthex, the two entrances at the altar and the side entrance at the back of church are all receiving new improved looks that will really brighten your first impressions! The new wainscoting is being professionally prepared along with a rich, polished finish that will add to the overall “new” look to the church. We will update you on that installation date.

Everyone has heard the existing sound system for 40 + years, these were the two, 5 foot column speakers on either side of the altar, they are replaced by a digital, state-of-the-art, 1500 watt sound system. This new speaker array is now centrally located 26 feet above the floor on the first truss and comfortably covers the entire church, including the choir loft. This improvement aesthetically and sonically is a major enhancement and will provide many years of service.

Workers, plastic coverings and paint buckets are all contributing to the maze one must circumnavigate right now and workers installing the wainscoting will add to the congestion very soon, so please continue to observe our non-entry request to the church. Your continued interest in the progress being made is appreciated .

The auditorium is open all day for visitation of the Sacrament. The air conditioning is a major benefit adding to the continuing comfort of our parishioners for all masses. Thank you for your patience and support! Visit www.stmarys-denville.org for photos!

2017 St. Mary's Church Renovation Update VII – August 6, 2017

The break neck pace continues on the refurbishment of the church. The expert plasterers are working with craftsmen designers / installers of the new wainscoting, (the Myers Ave. side of the church is nearing completion). Then the professional painters step back in to finish the area of the walls from the stained glass windows down to the top of the wainscoting. All these contractors working together, with members of the Renovation Committee will make St. Mary's Church beautiful, but most importantly ready to serve our major damage to the building that was addressed with a coat of paint in years past. This "refurbishment" is both beautification and correction of many "issues" in the church.

We anticipate the wainscoting will be done shortly on the school side of the church, then the process of adjusting the sound system begins, workers putting back the pews that were removed. This enabled access to the major floor to ceiling reconstruction between the original church and the "1957" addition. Work was also needed to refurbish the ceiling between the Narthex and the main entry of the church which had water damage.

Once again, this refurbishment process is on an accelerated scale and everyone involved is making every effort to get this completed "on time".

We continue to thank you for your positive comments and will update you next week on the final phase and completion of the project!

2017 St. Mary's Church Renovation Update VIII – August 13, 2017

The scaffolding is gone, the painting is done, including the Narthex, the sound system is installed, the final installation of the wainscoting at the back of church is complete and the original pews have returned to their respective areas (remember the pews will be re-finished to match the new décor of the church in Phase II, next year). The new wainscoting is being stained in a rich color to enhance the beauty of the wood. It really has enriched the church! Each of the stations will have a wood frame that surrounds the stations, distinctively setting them apart from the walls in the church.

Instead of changing the lighting this year from the chandeliers, we have a new Candelabra LED light bulb that looks just like an incandescent bulb. This is a major electricity cost savings as the eight chandeliers previously consumed 5,760 watts, with 40 watt light bulbs. The cost of the bulbs is quickly amortized just in a few weeks. Those same chandeliers are now brighter, have a bulb life expectancy that is measured to be 14 years of usage, and only use 648 watts of power.

Savings on electricity is one aspect and maintenance of replacing the bulbs every 2000 hours is a labor saving benefit. The lighting on the altar has been LED for the past 2 years along with older fluorescent tubes. For the time being that will remain awaiting decisions on Phase II next year along with other potential lighting fixture changes.

Mass starting next Saturday will be celebrated in the “new” St. Mary’s Church with all your encouragement, support and most importantly, prayers! We will publish a specific transition date from the auditorium location during the week of August 13th on the www.stmarys-denville.org website so check it for that update along with pictures of the progress made.