

We're sure you have plenty of questions. Here are some of your answers:

Can I stop in to see how the work is coming along? Our contractor asks that you refrain from stopping by to see the changes. The church will be a hazardous construction site when asbestos is being removed, lead paint is disturbed, and subcontractors are working on the ceilings and walls. We will try to keep you updated with photos on our website and Facebook page.

How long will this take? The contractor estimates that we could be out of our church for six months. The pew manufacturer anticipates seven to eight months.

How are we paying for this? The majority of the project is being funded with a parishioner's bequest, the Witness to Hope capital campaign, and funds raised through the hard work of our former Altar Society members. We will also use our Building Fund and general savings account. This plan was recommended by our Finance Council to the Diocese and was approved by their Finance Council and College of Consultors.

We are fortunate to not have to raise money for this project. If you would like to help us, though, please make your donation to the Building Fund using the gray envelope in your packet or by choosing the Building Fund in Online Giving.

Why are we getting rid of the church pews? Couldn't we just refinish them? Yes, we *could* refinish them, but we were pleasantly surprised at the relatively small difference in cost between refinishing our creaky, laminated pews and purchasing new, solid oak pews. New pews will also allow us to incorporate spots for wheelchairs and walkers and to make some of our walkways a little wider.

Why haven't I heard about this before now? Our initial plan to repaint the church was part of the Witness to Hope capital campaign rolled out to all parishioners in the first half of 2017. In the spring of 2019, two "town hall meetings" were held for everyone to learn more about the proposed changes and to offer feedback. During 2020 and most of 2021, progress was on "pause", but periodic articles in the bulletin have referred to the project.

How can I help? First, pray for the success of our project. Second, be patient and understanding.



Renovation Prayer

St. Joseph, patron of craftsmen, through your intercession may the Holy Spirit guide all who work to renovate our worship space.

May God provide them the grace to safely transform our historic faith home into a lasting, beautiful, and welcoming place of worship.

St. Joseph, patron of families and our parish, be with us as we undertake this journey together.

Amen

For updates, watch the bulletin, the stjoecatholic.com website, and our Facebook page.