



As you can see, a lot is happening around our parish/school campus. The new modular units have been installed, and we are putting the finishing touches on them to get ready for school to start on August 19th. We have named these buildings the Francis and Benedict Centers respectively.

The installation of the new boiler and heating repairs in the church are almost finished. We are hoping to be back in the vesting sacristy, usher's room and church basement with the next couple weeks.

You may have noticed that the church tuck pointing has begun. This is masonry repair that includes replacing some bricks, filling in mortar joints that have eroded and general cleaning. It is quite an undertaking but will preserve our church from moisture damage in the future.

Monday, the current school will undergo significant roof repair and replacement. It has been leaking for several years, and ventilation changes will be made to help prevent premature roof failure that has contributed to this damage. This will be completed before school begins.

Lastly, sometime between July 21st and July 28th, demolition of the old school and gymnasium (original church) will begin. This will take approximately 6 weeks to complete. The company we are using was recommended by the diocese for its focus on safety and efficiency. The asbestos removal was completed a couple weeks ago, and utility disconnection is in process. Many have asked if it would be possible to have a brick from the old school. Yes, we will make bricks available in a safe accessible area. Also, the cherubs from the arch on the gymnasium will be saved. One idea is to construct a grotto containing them. The bell will also be saved. Please note, safety is a priority. So, during the demolition, please respect the barriers and signage. This may cause some temporary parking inconvenience. The space for now will be converted into "green" space. The company also utilizes special equipment to contain dust. All workers will have background checks, and our school children will be given a safety program by company workers.

Obviously, all this costs a great deal of money. The good news is that we have the funding. The largest portion of the money will come from the Employee Retention Tax Credit. This amounts to approximately \$535,000 (money given to us during covid in compensation for not laying off employees).

Another source of funding was the repurposing of the Living Christ Campaign funds. Originally, those funds were to be used for church air conditioning, tuck pointing the church and church aesthetic improvements. The antiquated boilers that heat the church are in the basement of the old school that will be demolished, hence the change of purpose.

God Bless and Have a Great Week,

Fr. Keith