



I need to update you on the status of our new church building project. At our summary bid meeting on Friday, August 23rd, Nabholz presented the bids and total construction cost of \$13.5-\$14.0M. The lower \$13.5M cost reflects accepting the lowest submitted bids, which might impact construction quality. Even the lowest bid total exceeds our construction budget of \$11.0M and would exceed the \$5.0M loan for which the parish was approved.

As a result of the higher than expected construction costs, the Design/Core Team, with Parish Council concurrence, recommends we pursue a different design for the new church. We still retain the vision of building an identifiably and beautiful Catholic church, but it must be one designed to fit within our existing budget.

Over the past two years, we have worked to deliver on our original new church design vision. We moved several elements of our church design to future phases and modified many aspects of the design to make it more affordable. However, due to the complexity of the design, some required design changes, and the impact of inflation, we were unable to deliver the current design within budget. I don't see a viable way forward with the current design given the changes we have already made.

Our parish's need for a new church is still very real. We are going to regroup and find a design that meets our parish's needs and budget, includes as many elements desired by our parishioners as possible, and contains plans to expand for future growth and buildings. I have discussed the current situation with Bishop Taylor, and he is fully supportive of us moving forward with a more affordable design.

Our parishioners generously responded to our Capital Campaign drive, giving us the best response in our history and providing our parish with the best opportunity to build a church. We are in the process of contacting donors to update them. All the money collected for a church will go towards the construction of a church and will continue to earn interest, just as our building savings balance of over \$6 million does. We are asking donors to continue to honor their pledge payments as we will build a new church.

We appreciate your understanding, support, and flexibility as we move forward. This setback is not what anyone wanted, but it is not the end of our hopes for a new church. We have scheduled a meeting on September 19 at 7 pm in room 225 in order to answer questions you might have about the new direction. *We are in the early stages of developing the new plan going forward, so we might not be able to answer every question you have.* If you have any immediate questions, please feel free to reach out to Bob Mahler (new church project coordinator) at [bmahler@sifay.com](mailto:bmahler@sifay.com).

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Fr. Jason Tyler'.

Father Jason Tyler, Pastor