

Stepping Stones-New Church Progress Update

We are happy to report that we have completed the “value engineering” phase and have finalized our church design for Phase 1! Throughout this summer, our architects (Imber/Core) have been finalizing the design documents, which is the last step before we move forward to create construction documents.

As many of you know, over the past few years, construction costs have increased significantly, and this is impacting what we have been able to include in Phase 1 of our new church. Our priority has always been to build a church that is Christ-centered, beautiful, and timeless. The Parish Core & Design teams believe that we have been able to achieve that in the final design for Phase 1, despite having to make some compromises due to budget. We will continue to look for additional campaign donations to add back elements into Phase 1 where possible.

Not surprisingly, our timeline to break ground has been impacted by the work required to finalize the new Phase 1 design and stay within our budget. As a result, we now expect to break ground in the first quarter of 2024. While we know this is disappointing, **we don't expect this date to change much going forward as we now have a final design and a detailed timeline.** Since we've been communicating with the diocese throughout this process, we also anticipate fairly quick approval from both the diocese & the Vatican.

We are very excited and looking forward to sharing the final design:

- We expect to have new design renderings available in August.
- We are working to set a date for viewing a mortared brick stack sample of the church's exterior.
- We plan to schedule parish town hall meetings in the Fall to share the Phase 1 design and updated timeline.

Please watch Flocknote and the bulletin for dates and times.

Thank you to everyone who is contributing to the building fund collections and to those who made a pledge to the "Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future" Capital Campaign and for faithfully paying your pledges. **Your generosity allows us to stay on course in building the kind of timeless, Christ-centered church which parishioners desire. Also unchanged is our target seating capacity of 650+ in phase one, with the ability to expand to a seating capacity over 1,000 in later phases.**

Capital Campaign (Building) Fund Balances as of June 30th:

The campaign received pledges of \$7,192,573. As of June 30, 2023, \$4,634,295 has been paid so far. It's exciting to see that more than half of the original amount pledged has been collected. Money that we have collected in pledge payments & in the 2nd Sunday monthly building fund collections is deposited into our building fund savings account currently earning 5.88% interest. That means that your gifts are able to grow significantly as we move toward breaking ground.

It is not too late to join your fellow parishioners by making a sacrificial pledge commitment to our new church. To make a pledge, visit our website sjfay.com & click on the church icon on the homepage. Making a pledge will help us to:

- *Include more features in Phase 1 of the new church,*
- *Obtain diocesan approval to move forward, as the diocese will review our pledge response numbers to see that we can finance the construction costs.*

Please continue to pray for God's will as we move forward with this exciting project. We live in uncertain times, but with our faith firmly in God, we will lay the foundation for our future.