



January, 2002

The BuildingStone ... more "Good News" from Saint James Church to keep parishioners and friends of Saint James informed about the new-church building project.

*"Here
is the
house of
Yahweh God."
1 Chronicles 22:1*

A construction update

How have we done so far?

How did we do in 2001?

Good, according to **Dick Carpenter**, Lund-Ross project superintendent for the new church. The New Year marks a milestone of sorts for the St. James building project.

If all goes as planned, the year 2002 will bring the first services in the parish's new church!

With the holidays past and the New Year under way, it seems a good time to round up where things stand on various aspects of the project: Carpenter said crews made unexpected gains in some phases because of the unseasonably warm weather throughout the fall, while other aspects of the work suffered delays. In sum, it was a wash, he said, and the project is on schedule for November 2002 finish.

A few specifics:

- The north end of the building, which is the area that will include the narthex, bride's room and rest-rooms, has been enclosed and roofed to the point that interior work can be done in the winter months. Felt

is on the roof in that area, and shingling will be completed in warmer weather. Entries on both the north and east sides have also been enclosed.

- The warm weather allowed brickwork that was to be done in the spring to be finished much earlier. Brickwork remains to be finished in several upper areas.
- A key setback has been a delay in getting structural steel on site, Carpenter said. The latest shipments of steel have begun arriving, though, and by the middle of January almost all of the steel was to be on hand, as well as a couple of metal door frames that were delayed. As the steelwork progresses, Carpenter said, crews will move quickly to get more of the structure "in the dry," meaning enclosed enough to be protected from the elements. That will allow great strides in erecting walls and in the structure's interior.
- Other work, such as on the bell tower and the tabernacle area, will be finished in later stages. 🌞

"The project is still on schedule for a November 2002 finish"

-Dick Carpenter

Our vision is becoming reality

Detail decisions also part of project

While the construction of the new church building is obvious, considerable behind-the-scenes detail work also is underway. Discussions and decisions are occurring on several important fronts, including:

- ◆ **Pews:** Plans are being finalized and soon will be put out to bid.
- ◆ **Stained glass:** Two local companies were to be interviewed Jan. 11 for the stained glass project, with a decision by the parish to be made later in the month.
- ◆ **Statues:** Two or three people are in the running to sculpt a featured statue of St. James, and a decision on the sculptor should come in January or early February.

◆ **Corpus:** St. James is looking at a *corpus* (Christ's body) at Mount Michael in Elkhorn for possible use with the main cross in the new church, Fr. Grewe said. The 6-foot *corpus* is made of wood hand-carved in Italy and is a "beautiful" piece, he said. St. James was alerted to it by Associate Pastor Raphael Walsh, former abbot of Mt. Michael. The *corpus* had been used there but was taken down when the Mount Michael chapel was renovated. It has since been held in a storage area.

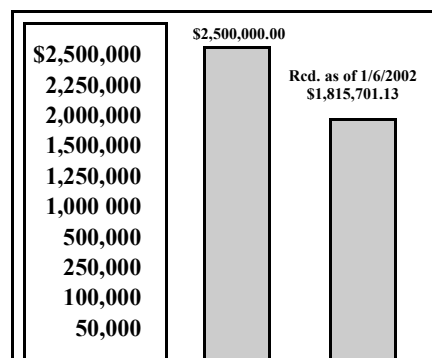
Some refurbishing would be needed, and that cost will factor into a decision on whether to purchase the *corpus* from Mount Michael, Fr. Grewe said. ☼

The financial picture

Month brings 'bump' in giving

The end of the year saw a bit of a "bump" in donations, said Fr. Michael Grewe, pastor of St. James, including two \$10,000 gifts that were not among the original pledges.

As the Capital Campaign enters the third of its three years, those new gifts are helping to keep the campaign on pace to reach the \$2.5 million pledged, Fr. Grewe said. We currently have \$1,815,701.13. More specific campaign numbers will be available near the end of January. ☼



Future use of old church discussed

Parishioners might be looking forward to using the new church, but several also are looking at possible uses for the existing worship space.

Nineteen members of the Future Facilities Committee, comprised of both pastors, school staff personnel, the P.R.E. and Adult Educa-

tion directors, and St. James and St. Elizabeth Ann parishioners, are looking at a number of possibilities for the old church.

The most likely use at this point is as a St. James/Seton School cafeteria, which would include a new kitchen. ☼

Businesses help out at Christmas

While parishioners have adapted to the parking squeeze well during construction, spaces offered by four businesses east of St. James on 90th Street (CarStar, Meineke, Pre-

cision Tuning, Cottman Transmission) were a big help during the Christmas services, Fr. Grewe said, especially at the 5:30 and 5:35 children's Masses on Christmas Eve. ☼