



May 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.



*"I will send  
an angel  
in front of you"*

*Exodus 33:2*



## Concrete progress now evident

# Floor poured in new church building

Another aspect of the new St. James church has gone from the drawing board to concrete reality—the building now has a floor.

Concrete has been poured over the past month, and other aspects of the work are waiting for the floor to cure so construction equipment can be brought back inside. The floor slopes upward about 15 inches from front to back, said **Dick Carpenter**, project superintendent for Lund-Ross.


Other areas of construction continue to move along, Carpenter said.

- ◆ **Brickwork:** It has been finished at the east and north entrances, and most of what's left is on the inside of the church and on the bell tower.
- ◆ **Roofing:** The majority of the work is done, although Carpenter has had to work through problems involving shingles not matching in color.
- ◆ **Drywall:** Some drywall has gone up in the narthex, library and bride's

room/nursery areas.

- ◆ **Windows:** Most windows are in, though there has been a wait for some that have been special-ordered. That's all right, though, Carpenter said, because the missing windows have provided some needed ventilation in the work area.

- ◆ **Geothermal heating and cooling system:** Digging of the 77 wells needed for the system has been delayed a bit, but was expected to get under way in the first half of May. The work was to begin in the area on the south between the building and Tomahawk Boulevard and should last a month or more.

May also was to bring progress on another key feature of the new church—the sound system. Architect **Dave Beringer** said the sound system engineer was to have cost estimates in May with the local contractor for installation selected by the middle of the month. 


## Cornerstone words coming into focus

The cornerstone for the new church will be just inside the main entrance on the east side of the structure, and the parish has been working on appropriate wording for this important element.

**Father Mike Grewe**, St. James pastor, said that it probably will contain a portion of the wording from Psalm 122,

which includes the passage:

*"We rejoiced when we heard them say,  
'let us go up to the house of the Lord'"*.

That passage on pilgrimage is especially appropriate, Father Mike said, because of the long wait of many St. James parishioners for a new worship space. 


## Building toured April 26

# Archbishop gives project a 'thumbs-up'

Archbishop Elden Francis Curtiss had his first close look at the progress of the new church during a visit April 26. He was at St. James for the Confirmation Mass and was given a tour earlier in the day.

Father Mike said the archbishop "was all smiles" about the new church and excited about the possibilities of the wor-

ship area. Archbishop Curtiss particularly liked the space and light provided by the height of the church, Father Grewe said, and remarked, "This is beautiful."

It was the archbishop's first official visit to the site since the groundbreaking ceremony last July. The archbishop will be back, of course, for the dedication of the new facility on December 1. 

*Stained glass to meld the traditional and contemporary*

# Trinity to be focus of stained glass work

The use of stained glass in churches is a tradition that dates to the 12th century, and St. James will carry on that tradition in its new church—but with a contemporary feel.

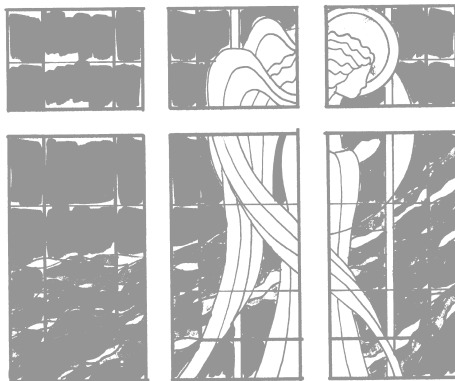
St. James' stained-glass project is in the hands of Omaha's **Mark Lambrecht**, who with wife **Kristi**, runs a studio in the Old Market.

He said the theme of the St. James design is "flowing and contemporary, with the use of traditional symbolism throughout." Line designs will be complemented by colors that are "deep and royal and regal," particularly in blues and purples, he said.

The premier work will be the large round window behind the altar, plus two long, oval windows on either side. Lambrecht is working to symbolize the Trinity in these pieces of stained glass through a design that will have "a soothing, comforting, ponderous effect." God the Father will be symbolized in the main window, with the Son and the Holy Spirit symbolically present in the two others.

Other windows that are part of Phase I include:

- ◆ Two long windows, one each on the east and west sides of the front of the worship space, which will include line design



**This is an early version of the proposed design for one of the stained-glass windows (minus the color around the angel, of course). This window will be to the left of the tabernacle in the chapel. A window of similar design—with the angel facing the opposite direction—will be on the other side of the tabernacle.**


- and color but no symbolism, Lambrecht said.
- ◆ Another large, round window on the north side, above the baptismal area, which will have what Lambrecht called "an abstract flowing-water concept ... with a subtle element of symbolism" regarding baptism.
- ◆ A semi-circular wall of glass behind the baptismary.
- ◆ Two windows flanking the tabernacle in the chapel, "colorful,

lined and flowing" with angels in the designs of each window. Lambrecht said these windows will bring "contemporary glass and traditional glass together, with the angels symbolized in traditional, recognizable form and the lines and color giving it a look that "suits today."

Other windows are expected to be converted to stained glass later, as funds permit.

The Lambrechts and the four others in their shop are in the design phase of the St. James project. With that and the many other projects under their care, Mark said, "We feel blessed by the work we've been given."

The Lambrechts and their staff have a rich, 24-year tradition in the glass business. They work on projects locally and nationally from the Lambrecht Glass Studio at 715 S. 12 St., where their operation has been based since 1995.


Local projects have included the stained glass in the St. Vincent de Paul church, and they are doing a small piece for an addition being built at Mary Our Queen. Also, Lambrecht worked on the chapel window at Immanuel Health Systems' senior citizen apartment complex near 69th Street and Sorensen Parkway. 

## Get a peek at the inside of the church

### Web site shows interior

Do you wish you could see inside the new church? Security and safety issues prevent parishioners from viewing it in person, but there's another option: the St. James Web site.

The entire project has been documented in words and pictures since last summer, and the site, [www.st.jamescatholicchurch.org](http://www.st.jamescatholicchurch.org), now includes photos from inside the church from only a few weeks ago.

The site is regularly updated with photos and information, so keep checking for the latest! And don't forget that there's a host of other parish information available on the site. 

## Pledges continue coming in

### Nearing \$2,000,000 figure

