



October 2001

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



"The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone."

Matthew 21:42



The financial picture

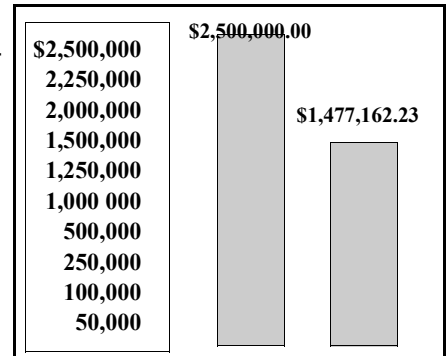
Parishioners increase campaign totals

As construction work goes on, pledge contributions continue to come in, making the financial picture upbeat for the new church.

Payments made on Capital Campaign pledges totaled \$1,477,162.23 as of October 7, 2001--an increase of \$44,384.56 from last month.

Fr. Michael Grewe continues to encourage parishioners to pay pledges as soon as possible to keep the amount of a loan needed to a minimum

Negotiations are ongoing for a permanent loan for the project. It is anticipated that this loan, along with the Capital Campaign funds and a \$500,000 loan from the Archdiocesan Deposit and Loan (at 6 percent interest), will fund the project. (Security National Bank will provide a line of credit at 6.25 percent interest).



A construction update

Appearances can be deceiving

Appearances can be deceiving—in people and in construction projects.

And that, says **Dick Carpenter**, Lund-Ross project superintendent for the new St. James church, is an accurate assessment of construction work on the new church. When masons began laying block, it seemed walls suddenly jumped out of the ground. Recently, however, work appears to have slowed to a crawl.

But that's not the case at all, said Carpenter. "There are times in any project when it looks like nothing is happening, but often that's when considerable work is being done," he said. "It's just not as evident."

At St. James, Carpenter said, delays in getting specialty blocks has not only slowed the work some, but has created gaps in the walls that have no doubt prompted questions among parishioners. For example, the block for the circular tabernacle on the southeast side is being manufactured in Minnesota. And special burnished blocks will be used in the area behind the choir, as well as in other areas of the new church.

Waiting for those blocks didn't bring project work to a standstill, Carpenter said. Workers have kept busy pouring the

footings for other walls, including the interior walls that will support the steel roof structure.

"We always have plenty to do, and right now everything is looking good," he said, noting the block laying was 75 percent complete by early October.

Brick for the project began arriving the first week of October from Yankee Hill in Lincoln, after the second of two samples of brick was approved by **Dave Beringer**, project architect. Carpenter said samples are checked to make sure everything is just the right color.

He also expects the structural steel in mid-October, and crews will begin getting

that steel in place as soon as possible. He hopes to have the steel structure and roof in place on the north end—the *narthex* or gathering space—before weather conditions begin to limit the outside work.

"We can then pour the floor, do dry-wall, lay brick and other interior work in that area during the bad weather, he said. As weather permits though, steel structure work will continue with the roof over the main worship space.

Block and brick layers also can work

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—Dick Carpenter
Project Superintendent


Construction update...

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outside while the temperature is in the 32-degree range.

In addition to creating the new space, recent work also has affected the existing Parish Center, where portions of the floor of the lobby area have been removed—as have the windows facing east. Work in that area was slowed somewhat when existing plumbing lines—not on the Center’s original building plans—were encountered as foot-

ings for the new church were being poured. “That caused some delays, but nothing major,” Carpenter said.

To avoid that problem for any future work, Lund-Ross prepares “as built” plans to reflect any changes made as construction progresses. “That way, he said, “projects down the road shouldn’t encounter any surprises.” 

More expensive system is the less expensive way to go

Geo-thermal system will heat/cool new church

When St. James Building Committee members recommended the most expensive heating and cooling system for the new church, they were looking past the initial price tag to the long-term operational costs.

From that perspective, the geo-thermal heat pump system that will heat and cool the new church becomes the least expensive.

“We decided to accept the higher start-up costs because we could see a relatively quick payback and then ongoing savings with the geo-thermal system,” said **Father Mike Grewe**. “The system uses natural energy, while at the same time saving natural resources. Combine that with the financial benefits, and it’s just a great choice for the parish.”

Engineers place the “payback period”—the time required for estimated annual operating savings to make up the initial cost difference—at 6.7 years, based on start-up


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—Fr. Grewe, Pastor

costs of \$356,000 for the geo-thermal system and \$291,000 for the traditional system and annual operating savings of more than \$9,600. The operating savings include \$5,300 a year in energy costs and \$4,300 a year in maintenance.

Work on the 90 wells that will tap the earth’s temperature to heat and cool water circulated through the system for the heat pumps will begin as early as next spring.

The well field, located on the west, south and east sides of the new church, will cost \$194,000. That work originally was to be financed through Omaha Public Power District but will now likely be included in the mortgage because of the favorable interest rates.

“That means the overall actual out-of-pocket costs will be less,” said Father Grewe, “which translates into more savings for the parish.” 

United States bishops’ comments on building churches

Church building defined by bishops

The following article is taken from the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB). Its purpose is to give direction for the building of a church.

“Just as the term *Church* refers to the *living temple*, God’s People, the term *church* also has been used to describe ‘the building in which the Christian community gathers to hear the word of God, to pray together, to receive the sacraments, and to celebrate the Eucharist.’ That building is both the house of God on earth and a house fit for the prayers of the saints. Such a house of prayer must be expressive of the presence of God ... as well as reflective of the community that celebrates there.

The church is the proper place for the liturgical prayer of the parish community.... It is also the...place for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and reservation of the Eucharist for Communion for the sick.

... Churches are never ‘simply gathering spaces, but signify and make visible the Church living in [a particular] place’ ... the building itself becomes ‘a sign of the pilgrim Church on earth and reflects the Church dwelling in heaven’.

Every church building is a gathering place for the assembly, a resting place, a place of encounter with God, as well as a point of departure on the Church’s unfinished journey toward the reign of God.

Churches must be places ‘suited to sacred celebrations,’ ‘dignified,’ and beautiful. Their suitability for worship is determined by their ability, through architectural design of space and the application of artistic gifts, to embody God’s initiative and the community’s faithful response.

Church buildings and the religious artworks that beautify them are forms of worship themselves and both inspire and reflect the prayer of the community, as well as the inner life of grace. Architecture and art become the joint work of the Holy Spirit and the local community....”

—NCCB Committee on the Liturgy

